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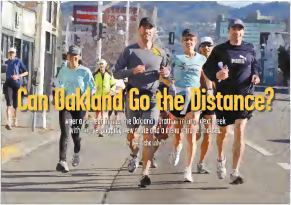

Can Oakland Go the Distance?

After a [illegible]-year hiatus, the Oakland Marathon returns next week with an eye-popping new route and a menu of race choices.

By Dan Schoenholz

NEWS 10

DANVILLE BECOMES BANVILLE

Bollywood film highlights racial profiling

CULTURE SPY 20

THE PROVOCATEUR

Philip Huang foists art on an unsuspecting public By Rachel Swan

One of Philip Huang's forthcoming projects — and he has a slew of them — will involve a guerilla theater performance outside the 24 Hour Fitness in downtown Berkeley. He'll call it "Witness the Fitness." "It's like, 'What the fuck are those people looking at on the treadmill?'" asked Huang, who was never one to shy away from a bemused audience. He's taken the public art concept to all sorts of unlikely places, including a bathroom stall at the Coppola vineyard, several gay marriage protests, and a construction site two blocks away from Ground Zero. When it comes to art, Huang confesses to be ing a bit of a free-market libertarian. He doesn't believe in grant applications or waiting around for someone else to curate your work. He's skeptical of third-party mediators. He also sees nothing wrong with foisting product on an unsuspecting public.

Story inside

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On the Cover *Members of the Lake Merritt Jugglers and Stiltwalkers training group. Photo by Chris Duffey.*

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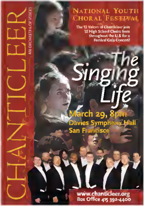

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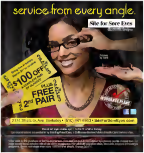

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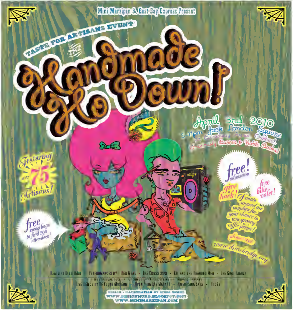

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NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS
NEWSPAPER IN JEOPARDY

LETTERS

The Berkeley Daily Planet's [illegible] Obituary [illegible]

Ludicrous Suggestions

Regardless of the economic reasons behind the demise of the *Daily Planet*, its legacy will always be focused on the subservience Becky O'Malley accorded to a group of writers and contributors who endorsed, promoted, fostered, and enabled a pathological hatred of Israel. The tendency for this monster to rear its ugly head, week after week, was worthy of the criticism that prevailed from a number of progressive observers, none of whom could be described as "right wing Zionists." If you visited one of the anti-Israel rallies in the Bay Area, you would note that there is no longer a line drawn between Israel hatred and Jew hatred. By featuring a maelstrom of hostility towards Israel in her pages, O'Malley effectively cottoned up to the most disturbing, virulent form of modern Jew hatred. To suggest as Brenneman does that O'Malley's critics were limited to three "zionist perpetrators" is ludicrous. Hate speech was heard — loud and clear — throughout her publication, and an entire community of progressives became outraged.

Leon Mayer, Berkeley

Experts Aren't Objective

In Richard Brenneman's predictably self-serving post mortem of the *Berkeley Daily Planet*'s checkered existence, he queries two "independent experts" about the value of the newspaper, both of whom, it so happens, published extensively in the *Planet* (not exactly the most "objective" voices?). He quotes Gray Brechin, a frequent and exceedingly strident critic of Israel in the pages of the *Planet*, as lamenting, "It's really sad that the paper's critics were willing to sacrifice the paper for their own agendas."

Excuse me? This formulation is exactly backwards. The "critics" of the *Planet* had absolutely no power to sacrifice the paper to any agenda. They merely exercised their First Amendment privilege by voicing their own concerns about frequent prejudicial content to the wider community. But Brechin is half right. The *Planet* was, in fact, shamefully and needlessly sacrificed to the malignant agenda of its editor and owner for whom providing an open forum for relentlessly attacking the legitimacy and existence of the world's only Jewish state superseded any other raison d'etre for her vanity newspaper. Brechin concludes, "But I really developed a respect for Becky O'Malley because she didn't shy away from controversial issues, including the Palestine question." Indeed, the "Palestine question" was of such capital importance to the *Planet* faithful that the newspaper's ruin proved preferable to focusing on organic local issues which could have made the paper more sustainable in the long term.

S. Z. Underwood, Berkeley

A Forum for Terror Apologists

I used to work for a newspaper publisher for over three years and have felt the pain first hand of changes in the newsprint industry. So when I hear about yet one more newsprint source going out of business these days I usually feel a certain degree of sadness for the before mentioned reason and because it is evidence of a still troubled economy. But not so with *The Berkeley Daily Planet* for which I take great delight in saying good riddance! *The Daily Planet* provided a forum for Israel bashers and terror apologists to demonize the Jewish state. Standing up for Israel here in the "tolerant and liberal" Bay Area has always been an uphill battle. As such, the occasional victory that comes our way is most welcomed. Jim Sinkinson and Dan Spitzer should be commended for their efforts in informing the *Planet*'s advertisers about the paper's anti-Israel bias which contributed to its demise. The publisher and editor Michael and Becky O'Malley however don't appear to have learned a thing from all this. Richard Brenneman's article concludes with a prediction of friends and foes alike who will miss *The Daily Planet*. Rest assured, Mr. Brenneman, I will not be one of them.

David Holsey, Castro Valley

Berkeley Has Another Newspaper

The Pepper Spray Times, a satirical newspaper in its twelfth year of publication, continues to publish print issues in Berkeley, subscriptions to which are available at cdenney@igc.org.

Carol Denney, AKA Grace Underpressure
Editor, Pepper Spray Times
Berkeley

[illegible]

Bakery Doesn't Deserve a Bailout

I'm dismayed to learn that the cash-strapped City of Oakland has been bailing out the failing Merritt Bakery and Restaurant for years, and recently spent money for a consultant to examine the viability of another bailout. Blaming the Merritt demise on inconvenient parking

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is absurd. Especially since a competitor diner was demolished during the Albertson's store remodel. Similar diners have long closed their doors. It all comes down to value and quality of food. I can think of half a dozen restaurants and bakeries in Oakland (and many more in Berkeley) that have a constant line of customers out the door, despite difficult parking. In fact, the Merritt briefly attempted to revive their bakery business (with a city bailout), on the corner of 51st and Telegraph. That Merritt venture failed, but a thriving bakery has been active in the same space, and even expanded their menu to include diner staples like fried chicken and egg salad sandwiches. Oakland bakeries and restaurants do not usually supply storefront parking. Merritt's mismanaged business model does not merit a city funded bailout. So will Oakland get their bailout money back when the business is sold?

Karen Broder, Oakland

[illegible] Bk News 2/21

Solar Plan Succeeded

Judith Scherr suggests that Berkeley's recent solar financing plan was not a success. To the contrary, I believe that Berkeley FIRST may be our city's most important contribution to combating climate change.

Berkeley FIRST (Financing Initiative for Renewable and Solar Technology) is an innovative renewable energy financing program designed to overcome the barriers to property owners' adoption of renewable energy technologies. There are many advantages of the Berkeley FIRST program for property owners, including:

Relatively little up-front cost

Up-front costs for the solar system are paid through a special tax on the property and are amortized over twenty years.

The tax obligation stays with the property so if the property is transferred or sold, the new owners will pay the remaining tax obligation.

In her article, Ms. Scherr neglects to highlight several key accomplishments of our program, including:

1) Berkeley FIRST was a catalyst for the expansion of residential solar energy. Ninety percent of applicants who were accepted into the original pilot program have now installed or plan to install solar on their homes. Those applicants who did not take advantage of the financing credit the program with exposing them to the benefits of renewable energy.

2) The greatest advantage of this program is its scalability. Berkeley FIRST has become a national model for energy efficiency and renewable energy adoption. Vice President Biden recognized Berkeley FIRST and, in taking it to national scale, renamed the program Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE). Seventeen states and more than 200 cities are now preparing to launch Berkeley-like PACE programs. In California, Berkeley FIRST was the foundation for what is now a statewide California FIRST program.

3) The CaliforniaFIRST program has incorporated lessons learned from our Berkeley FIRST initiative and will serve as an improved product. In the statewide program, homeowners can amortize the costs of energy efficiency and water conservation improvements as well as the installation of solar panels and solar thermal systems. Benefits of the scaled up program will also include lower interest rates and administrative costs for each participating property owner. Berkeley residents will have access to this program once it launches this summer.

The success of Berkeley's pilot has laid the foundation for the larger scale state-wide program that will give thousands of Berkeley homeowners the chance to lower their energy bills, make their homes less drafty and become energy independent, while at the same time creating meaningful green jobs for our area. Whereas Ms. Scherr feels that our program went "dark," I would argue that it has illuminated the road to a more vibrant and energy efficient future.

Tom Bates, Berkeley

Off to Greener Pastures

BerkeleyFIRST program was change for a greener, more sustainable world and now, we learn, it's going dark. The program was a leap forward in the "greening" of our nation, too bad it couldn't survive. Yes, only a few Berkeley residents participated in the pilot program (emphasis on PILOT) but it still brought awareness for other governments to start thinking seriously about sustainability. If I'm not mistaken, a pilot program is sort of a test run. Since we don't truly know the outcome, we need to test it. We have tested it. We learned from it. Off to greener pastures we go!

Kosme Dunko, Berkeley

Eco Plaza Needs a Green Light Eco-Watch

Who's Surprised?

Regarding the faux riparianization of Center Street, it should be noted that the 8,000 people walking to Cal enter a REAL riparian corridor after crossing Oxford Street. Who can be surprised at the lack of momentum? We're in a recession, public finances are terrible, and the entire north side of the block (presently ugly and underused) will eventually turn into a blighted construction zone as has Center a block west for the past several years. Stating our modest circumstances, we should pay heed to the low budget success of SF's "Pavement Parks." Simply put: bollard off Center, add planters and benches, and give the plaza a trial run. Get some ambitious grad students to analyze receipts and determine the economic impact. The city can get merchants on board by offering to offset potential losses as measured against the neighborhood. We're never going to have a 3rd Street Promenade (Santa Monica) or a Garden Mall (Santa Cruz), but we could do something amidst the endless jaw-jaw of competing downtown plans. Is Center Plaza a pleasant place to sit or is it actually a cold windy street next to six lanes of traffic? Does a traffic-free street reinvigorate commerce and culture or should the city start thinking about eminent domain for empty storefronts?

John Vinopal, Berkeley

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly pz/letters

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SEVEN DAYS

MEG WHITMAN'S VERY BAD WEEK

The GOP frontrunner in the governor's race pissed off the state's press corps and then got caught staging a "town-hall" event.

By Robert Gammon

Last week will likely go down as the worst of Meg Whitman's short political career. It began when she angered the state's political press corps at the Port of Oakland, and then later she was captured on video fraudulently staging a "town-hall" event. Finally, by week's end, she was attempting to turn things around by attacking her political opponents. But it remains to be seen whether her new offensive will allow her to hide what promises to be her Achilles heel.

What last week proved more than anything is that the former eBay CEO has a lot in common with ex-GOP vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin. That is, she has extreme difficulty going off script. Back in 2008, Palin took the unprecedented step of refusing to hold a single press conference during the run-up to the presidential election. Anybody who witnessed the Katie Couric interview train wreck understands why. Whitman, likewise, has spent the past few months scrupulously avoiding the mainstream media, except for the occasional sit-down with a right-leaning columnist. She has held no press conferences either.

Instead, she spent a sizable portion of her substantial wealth on radio and TV ads, blanketing the airwaves during the Winter Olympics. The canned messages also appeared to be working. According to a poll conducted for the liberal web site Daily Kos, Whitman had closed to within four points of the Democratic Party presumptive nominee Jerry Brown (45-41) by the beginning of last week. Whitman, in fact, has been gaining on Brown for the past year, in part because the former Oakland mayor has run one of the most invisible gubernatorial campaigns in recent memory.

But that was all before the Port of Oakland press debacle. Whitman's campaign had invited the media for a tour of the Union Pacific Railroad facility. But then the candidate refused to answer any questions and decided to wall off the press in an isolated room. Whitman's people claimed that it was Union Pacific's decision. But a company spokesman admitted that it had been Whitman's campaign who decided to keep the press at bay.

The resulting front-page stories and TV news exposés not only were embarrassing, but they seemed to reveal something deeper about Whitman's character. The former Silicon Valley-executive-turned-political-neophyte apparently doesn't like being questioned. This obvious political flaw then became more pronounced when an operative from the rival GOP campaign of Steve Poizner caught Whitman on video trying to make a fake town-hall meeting look real. The YouTube hit showed Whitman telling a friendly audience that "lots of cheering would be good" for her.

Apparently, all the bad press was too much for the media-averse candidate to endure. So by week's end, she called her first-ever press conference and went on the offensive. Whitman began by calling Poizner the worst name in right-wing politics these days — "a liberal Republican." But then pesky reporters forced Whitman to acknowledge that she had voted for Poizner for state insurance commissioner in 2002. It was one of the few times that she had voted at all in her adult life.

But the billionaire wasn't done. Her campaign also launched an attack against Brown, alleging that he was illegally coordinating with a supposed "independent" political committee that plans to spend millions trying to defeat her. Whitman's operatives filed a complaint with the state's Fair Political Practices Commission, noting that the independent committee, Level the Playing, is run by former Brown aides who helped him become attorney general four years ago. Committee officials, however, say they're not working with Brown these days. And while allegations like Whitman's might make for good headlines, they're very difficult to prove.

Berkeley Official Admits Lawbreaking

Ryan Lau, who serves on Berkeley's *Zoning Adjustments Board*, admitted to violating city law while doing work on his home, according to the *Oakland Tribune*. Lau, who is also an aide to Berkeley Councilman Darryl Moore, acknowledged that he did not pull the proper permits or pay for them when he remodeled his garage and turned it into living quarters last year.

Failing to pull and pay for city permits is not particularly unusual. But for Lau, it's problematic because his job on the zoning board includes making sure that Berkeley's construction regulations are followed. In other words, he confessed to violating some of the very same laws that he is entrusted with upholding, and he's now facing some stiff penalties.

Nonetheless, there are no indications as of yet that Lau will resign from the board or will stop working for Moore. Lau's lawbreaking was first reported in the online version of the *Berkeley Daily Planet*.

Three-Dot Roundup

The Oakland teachers' union decided to postpone its one-day strike for a month because it would be illegal to stage a walkout before a fact-finding report is complete. ... Five Oakland middle schools, meanwhile, proved that education reforms don't always work. The state listed them as persistently failing last week even though they had all undergone radical reforms in recent years. ... San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom officially jumped into the race for lieutenant governor. He should easily win the Democratic Party nomination, but the November general election against moderate Republican state Senator Abel Maldonado promises to be more difficult — especially if the governor is successful at appointing Maldonado as the interim lieutenant governor. ... Republican state Senator Roy Ashburn, who maintained an anti-gay stance throughout his political career, admitted last week that he is gay. ... And a court commissioner awarded half of the *SF Weekly's* ad revenues to the *San Francisco Bay Guardian* as down payment on a $20 million jury verdict from 2008. The *Weekly* has appealed the verdict and the commissioner's decision. ●

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Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.

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ECO WATCH

BERKELEY TO IGNORE PART OF CLIMATE ACTION PLAN?

City officials are pushing forward with an effort to turn West Berkeley into a green-tech corridor, but they appear to have given up on dense housing in the area.

By Robert Gammon

Doug Boehm

The City of Berkeley has prided itself in recent years for being at the forefront of the fight against global warming. Last year the city council passed a sweeping Climate Action Plan, the first of its kind in the nation. And in the past few months, city officials have methodically tried to create a green-tech-business corridor in West Berkeley despite angry protests from area NIMBYs. Nonetheless, the city appears to be quietly abandoning a key element of its landmark climate plan less than a year after adopting it.

The climate plan recognized that Berkeley will not be able to adequately address greenhouse gas emissions unless it builds more dense housing near new businesses and major transit corridors. "Clearly, by accommodating more people near jobs, transit, and other services, the Berkeley community can play an important role in reducing GHG emissions and maintaining a vibrant, healthy community," the plan states.

Environmentalists and smart-growth advocates have increasingly realized over the years that one of the most effective ways to combat climate change is to get people out of their cars. And the best way to do that is to build more housing near job centers. The problem is particularly acute in Berkeley, because it has nowhere near enough housing for people who work in the city. The climate plan notes that about 58 percent of all the people employed in Berkeley live outside the city and commute from elsewhere, thereby significantly adding to the region's greenhouse gases.

Yet despite these facts, city officials have decided to prohibit dense housing in wide swaths of West Berkeley, even though they want to transform the area into a major green-tech job hub. In a draft plan reviewed at a city planning commission last week, city officials revealed that they intend to limit dense housing in West Berkeley to just along San Pablo and University avenues and not allow it elsewhere in the area.

Wendy Cosin, the city's deputy planning director, told Eco Watch that her department decided to move forward with the draft plan after receiving direction from the city council, whose goal is green-tech development in West Berkeley — not to create more housing.

However, some local developers and property owners argue that the city's decision to attract business but limit condos, apartments, and lofts could backfire. They say green-tech businesses may go elsewhere, possibly to the suburbs, in search of communities that have ample housing for their workers. Developers of green-collar mixed-use developments — that is, condos, apartments, or lofts and green tech office space — may also end up going to cities that will give them more opportunities to build.

The plan to attract green tech — but not provide enough housing — also could force more commuters to drive to Berkeley, directly contravening one of the Climate Action Plan's main goals. The city estimates that future green tech businesses that spin off from UC Berkeley and Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory will produce thousands of new jobs. "You'll just end up adding to the vehicle-miles traveled," noted Darrell De Tienne, who is working to develop a large mixed-use site in West Berkeley known as Peerless Greens. "It contradicts what they've approved in the Climate Action Plan."

As for West Berkeley's NIMBYs, they not only oppose dense housing, but most of the green tech businesses as well. At the planning commission meeting, residents complained about the potential for new 45- to 75-foot tall buildings casting shadows on their homes and blocking their views of the hills and San Francisco Bay. One homeowner even griped that shadows would kill her tomatoes. And virtually none of the residents mentioned the fight against global warming.

Homeowners who oppose change have turned to Rick Auerbach of the West Berkeley Artisans and Industrial Companies as their de facto spokesman. Even though his priorities are different, the results he seeks would be the same. Auerbach wants to limit green tech research and development companies to a handful of larger sites in West Berkeley and prohibit them everywhere else because he believes they will displace traditional blue-collar industrial and warehouse jobs.

Auerbach also apparently intends to use any means necessary to achieve his goals, including turning the Climate Action Plan on its head. At the commission meeting, he contended that opening the door to green-tech in West Berkeley would lead to "a rise in greenhouse gas emissions." And he wasn't talking about the lack of housing. Instead, he argued that industrial and warehouse businesses will move elsewhere, thereby worsening commute traffic.

But what he didn't acknowledge is that those businesses have been leaving Berkeley anyway for years — well before the new green tech wave has arrived. In addition, there is no evidence that a significant number of industrial and warehouse workers live in Berkeley now, and so if those companies leave, there's no telling how it will affect greenhouse gas emissions.

Regardless, the city deserves credit for standing up to the West Berkeley NIMBYs and moving forward with the green tech jobs corridor. Berkeley can't afford to lose out on the green revolution, especially at a time when the Obama administration is doling out huge grants to small startups that are trying to devise ways to lessen the impacts of the coming climate-change crisis.

In fact, Berkeley, a city in which most residents consider themselves to be environmentalists, should be doing all it can to address global warming, including accommodating condos, apartments, and lofts within its green-tech corridor. After all, no one is talking about building skyscrapers in West Berkeley. And it makes no sense to force workers who are trying to save the planet to get in their cars and drive just to get to their jobs. ●

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DANVILLE BECOMES "BANVILLE"

The international Bollywood smash *My Name Is Khan* highlights racial profiling in a fictional wealthy suburb patterned after the real East Bay town

By Nate Seltenrich

The well-to-do East Bay bedroom community of Danville doesn't usually star on the silver screen. Half the town, it seemed, turned out to watch Robin Williams and Sally Field pull up in a red sports car outside Bridges restaurant during the filming of *Mrs. Doubtfire* in 1993. That movie went on to win an Oscar and two Golden Globes, but a current feature film in which Danville played a role may be seen by many more eyes around the world. And this time, town residents may not embrace the exposure.

The Bollywood drama *My Name Is Khan* is set in part in the fictional town of "Banville," a stereotypically white upper-class Bay Area suburb. There, a significant portion of the film's plot about post-9/11 race relations unravels: After moving from San Francisco to a town full of picturesque McMansions with sparkling front lawns, a young Indian family is subjected to racial profiling and racially motivated violence in a suddenly hostile suburban environment.

Initially, the Khans get along well with the white-washed nuclear families that surround them, and their first few months in Banville are bliss. Then the World Trade Center towers go down, and the once-welcoming citizens of Banville begin to turn on their new Indian neighbors. The climax arrives when Sameer, the teenage son, is killed by three white students at his predominately white high school. Later, standing on the soccer field where her son was killed — infuriated with her Muslim husband Rizvan for drawing negative attention to the family — the mother Mandira shouts at him: "Banville has 30,000 people. And all 30,000 of them hate you!"

Released in mid-February, the film has set box-office records around the world. In North America, its opening-weekend gross of $1.9 million was the highest ever recorded for a Hindi film; three weeks later, sales had nearly doubled to $3.6 million, another US record, with the film still showing on Bay Area screens. While it's true that few of *Khan's* millions of international viewers will recognize the thinly veiled nod to Danville, anyone familiar with the town won't miss it. And some Indian-American residents of the East Bay aren't quite sure what to make of the uncomplimentary publicity.

"I'd say it was a little exaggerated," said Ashish Chand of Fremont, a lifelong East Bay resident. "I thought the movie was a bit extreme," agreed Danville resident Aamina Ali in an e-mail. "The movie painted a darker picture."

Bollywood blogger Leena Kamat, who grew up in Concord and Walnut Creek and now resides in Oakland, had a different impression. "I thought the Danville part was done well and very clever," she said. "I've talked to a lot of people who live in areas like Fremont, Walnut Creek, and Danville, and they feel that it is pretty accurate."

Screenwriter Shibani Bathija decided to set the story in the Bay Area after becoming familiar with it while studying communications at San Francisco State University from 1998 to 2000. When she sat down to write *My Name Is Khan* in 2007, a spate of recent Bollywood films shot in the Bay Area, plus aspirations to make a movie that would do well in the United States, made San Francisco an obvious choice. The christening of Banville, on the other hand, came about a lot more casually.

Screenwriter Shibani Bathija.

Reached on the phone from Mumbai, India, Bathija explained that she used Google Maps to scope out the San Francisco suburbs. For her script, she was looking for something that might resemble a "small, very rich suburban town." She spotted Danville, which sounded sufficiently American to resonate with Southeast Asian and Middle Eastern viewers, and was sold by photos of its quaint downtown.

While doing research for the film, Bathija finally visited. "It was beautiful. What a lovely place," she said. "But it so happened we were there on the anniversary of 9/11. And there were these four very Asian, obviously non-residents walking around, and we got lots of long, hard stares. ... The fear is there."

That reaction, it seemed, reinforced — or at least validated — Bathija's depiction of the fictional town of Banville. Yet she insists this is no indictment of Danville; the portrayal of Banville was intended to be more universal. "There really is no political agenda against the town," she said. "The town is representative of what was happening across the country. ... A small town becomes a good place to have this sort of incident unfold."

The Banville scenes, in fact, weren't even filmed in Danville; rather, Saratoga, Morgan Hill, Novato, and nearby Livermore stood in for a town that was itself intended to stand in for insulated suburbs across the country. If facts were lost in translation, so be it.

Irene Nexica, a researcher in the field of Indian cinema and former *Express* contributor, believes that's closer to the point. Despite *My Name Is Khan's* success in the states, "the biggest audience is outside of America, so there's really no impulse to depict America accurately," she said. "Banville is their idea of what suburban life is like in America." ●

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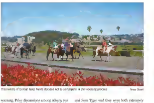
A BAD BET ON GOLDEN GATE FIELDS?

The City of Albany spent more than $600,000 on a citizens' plan for developing the racetrack and the waterfront, but it may go nowhere

By Tessa Stuart


The owners of Golden Gate Fields decided not to participate in the visioning process. Tessa Stuart

Several years ago, the City of Albany embarked on a vision quest for what Golden Gate Fields and the waterfront should look like in the future. The city hired private consultants to talk to city residents about what they wanted to see on one of the most prized properties in the East Bay. The process included dozens of town hall-style meetings, and the results are scheduled to be released early next month. But it's unclear whether the expensive report, which ultimately cost the city more than $600,000 to complete, will serve as a blueprint or will end up on a dusty shelf somewhere inside City Hall.

The reason is that the owners of Golden Gate Fields, Magna Racing Corporation, decided not to participate in much of the visioning process for how to develop their own property. As a result, there is no telling whether the racetrack owners will embrace the pricey new vision or simply ignore it. In other words, when the report is unveiled at Albany City Council sessions on April 5 and April 22, the question might not be "What do the citizens of Albany want?" but, "Does it matter what they want?"

The fact that the report went forward without significant participation from the racetrack's owners also suggests a disconnect between the city and the Oakland-based consulting firm that put it together. In an interview, Albany Mayor Joanne Wile insisted that Golden Gate Fields and Magna "have been very closely involved, very much included in this." But the consultant, Fern Tiger, said to her knowledge the only person affiliated with either Golden Gate Fields or Magna that had attended any of the "Voices to Vision" sessions was a jockey who sometimes races at the track.

Asked to clarify, Fern Tiger wrote in an e-mail, "We interviewed local GGF management. We also made efforts to connect with Frank Stronach, the majority Magna shareholder. Magna and GGF officials chose not to be engaged in the actual process. Had they wanted to participate they could have attended both the spring and January non-resident sessions." Fern Tiger had not only asked city residents for their vision for Golden Gate Fields and the waterfront but also talked to non-residents. Magna vice president for California Peter Tunney, the top executive at Golden Gate Fields, did not return multiple calls for comment for this story.

In 2007, a consulting firm that the city hired to determine whether Albany should go forward with the planning process had warned about the importance of involving the racetrack's owners. The firm, Noworth & Associates, stated at the time that Magna needed to be actively involved in the planning process lest it "simply become another expensive and futile exercise."

The consultants had a good reason for their warning. Prior discussions among Albany residents, city officials, and the owners of Golden Gate Fields had not gone well. Five years ago, developer Rick Caruso, working on Magna's behalf, proposed creating a $400 million "lifestyle center" on the property that would have included apartments, shops, restaurants, and a farmers' market next to the racetrack.

But Caruso knew that he needed buy-in from city voters. That's because a 1990 voter-approved initiative, Measure C, requires voter approval for most types of development along the Albany waterfront. So before filing an application with the city's Planning Commission, Caruso undertook a massive public relations campaign in hopes of convincing residents to support his plan for a mixed-use residential retail development that he said would bring in $2 million of revenue for the city each year.

He retained a Berkeley-based public relations firm and made appearances at neighborhood parties to deliver his pitch, detailing the extra lengths he was willing to go to build on the property. He offered to sponsor free concerts, bankroll a new exercise center for the YMCA, and create a new trolley line to run between the property and Solano Avenue.

Nonetheless, Caruso's plan, like others previously proposed by Magna and past owners of Golden Gate Fields, was met with vehement opposition. "We're adamantly opposed," then-Mayor Robert Cheasty told the *San Francisco Chronicle* in 2005. "We're going to fight. We just can't roll over for this."

Caruso withdrew his bid to develop the waterfront a year later and the Albany City Council later passed a resolution to fund a city-initiated planning process for the waterfront. "A range of viewpoints for the future of the waterfront would be included ... including the property owner, potential developer proponents of the initiative, and other community members," it said.

After spending $17,000 on the first consultant, Noworth & Associates, the council ultimately awarded the $552,713 visioning plan contract to Fern Tiger Associates to find out what city residents really want for the land. "If you look at the history of Albany, the community had turned down every proposal the developers have put forth," said Mayor Wile.

The resulting "Voices to Vision" process included 38 town-hall style meetings. All told, more than 1,100 Albany citizens weighed in at least once on the report, and Mayor Wile and Fern Tiger said they were both extremely pleased with the outcome. "This was incredibly respectful," Tiger said. "People really listened to what others had to say." Wile likewise said she was "very impressed by the thoughtfulness of the people who participated."

Still, some members of the community were less satisfied. The project was intended to reconcile differing views and elicit consensus, but the decision to limit participation to individuals left groups that have campaigned on behalf of the waterfront feeling that their views were unrepresented. "I'm not sure it will get us to a good understanding of what people would really support or want on the waterfront," said longtime Sierra Club activist Norman LaForce.

According to LaForce, Citizens for East Shore Parks, Citizens for the Albany Shoreline, the Golden Gate Audubon Society, and the Sierra Club have developed alternative scenarios for waterfront development. One calls for the removal of the racetrack and limited construction close to the freeway that would act as a sound barrier, keeping the remainder of the land open space. LaForce contrasts that proposal with the scenarios presented during the "Voices to Vision" sessions, which he calls "artificial constructs ... very little [of which] have anything to do with what people have actually talked about."

Yet even if the Fern Tiger report goes nowhere, the city likely will not give up on its effort to control development on the waterfront. Golden Gate Fields consistently generates more than $1 million in tax revenue for the city each year, representing an average of about 7 percent of the city's general fund. Proceeds from the track also support the Albany school district. This year alone, the district is due to receive $682,000.

For years, city leaders have thought that Magna would eventually abandon the racetrack because of flagging racing profits. But even after filing for bankruptcy last year, Magna fought hard to hold on to the track. The corporation cut a deal in January that would allow its parent company, MI Developments, to buy Golden Gate Fields and two other tracks in Southern California and Florida. In other words, Magna doesn't appear to be going anywhere anytime soon. ●

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Gene Brtalik, whose employer promotes and organizes the Baltimore Marathon, saw that Oakland had a gap begging to be filled.

Joseph Schell

Can Oakland Go the Distance?

After a 25-year hiatus, the Oakland Marathon returns next week with an eye-popping new route and a menu of race choices.

By Dan Schoenholz

On a cool, crystal-clear November morning, the weather is perfect for a run. Outside of Lululemon, a chic athletic apparel shop at the corner of Ashby and College avenues in Berkeley, a crowd starts to assemble on the sidewalk. It's a colorful spectacle — an ethnically diverse gathering of about 100 runners sporting bright race T-shirts, neon shorts, and shiny white shoes that look like they've yet to step in a puddle.

The occasion is the inaugural group training run for the Oakland Running Festival, which is scheduled for the weekend of March 26-28 and will include the first road marathon to be held in Oakland in more than 25 years. Len Goldman, the sprightly 65-year-old president of the Lake Merritt Joggers and Striders running club, shouts above the drone of traffic. He welcomes everyone and explains that over the next four months, the group will run together each Saturday morning, gradually increasing the mileage until participants are fully prepared for either the 26.2-mile marathon or the accompanying half marathon. The day's run will be an "easy" five- or six-mile jaunt past the east side of the UC Berkeley campus to Codornices Park, then down the hill to Oxford Street before returning to the store for post-workout refreshments — and possible purchases of tony running wear.

There is an upbeat vibe among the runners. It's a beautiful day, their legs feel fresh, and the race is still four months away. The atmosphere feels like the first day of school.

Longtime Oakland runners and the race organizers are optimistic, too. They see the Oakland Running Festival as an opportunity to promote both Oakland and running, and as a way to unify a community that is often divided by racial, economic, and geographic differences. Marathons are big events in many cities — New York and Boston, famously, but also Baltimore, Cincinnati, Houston, and countless others — and serve as a source of civic pride and unity. Why not Oakland?

It turns out that local business people and politicians had the same notion in the early Eighties, when, for three or four years, the Oakland Marathon was a destination race for runners in California and beyond. But instead of evolving into the Boston Marathon of the West, as boosters hoped, the Oakland Marathon vanished abruptly, leaving a void that marathons in San Francisco, Sacramento, and San Jose have only partially filled.

The question for skeptics in Nikes, then, is why will things be any different in the new millennium? What reason is there to believe this Oakland can support a big-time marathon for the long haul this time around?

One person who is unabashedly bullish on the Oakland Running Festival's prospects is race director Gene Brtalik, the man who came up with the idea. Brtalik works in marketing for Corrigan Sports, the Maryland-based promoter and organizer of the Baltimore Marathon. When his wife got a job in Oakland and the couple relocated from the East Coast in October 2008, Brtalik looked into the local race schedule. He learned that Oakland had no marathon, and saw a gap begging to be filled.

After receiving the go-ahead from his boss, Brtalik e-mailed the Oakland City Council to propose a race weekend and offer Corrigan Sports' promotional services. Within three hours, he received responses from several councilmembers. After a few months of ironing out the details with city staff, the council approved a resolution in support of the event last June.

Brtalik sees no reason why the Oakland Running Festival can't be as successful as his company's flagship running weekend in Baltimore. According to Brtalik, the Baltimore event started small but now has 20,000 runners annually and has become a huge community happening, with about one of every four people in the city participating in some way.

Brtalik credits the event's success to the way it's organized. "There are five races so most people can find something they can participate in," he said. In addition to the marathon and half marathon, the Baltimore festival includes a 5K, a kids' fun run, and a four-person relay. "We make it walker-friendly for those who don't run," he added. "We make it family friendly. And there's also a party atmosphere afterward. Now it has become the thing to do. One person does it and has a great time; the next year their friends want to do it."

The Oakland Running Festival is based on the same model, and Brtalik expects it to follow a similar growth trajectory. "We're looking for 7,000 to 8,000 runners across five events this year," he said. "We want to start small and make sure we can handle the crowds. In Baltimore the size has increased 10 to 15 percent each year, and that's what we're shooting for in Oakland."

Brtalik also has high hopes for the competitive aspects of the race, and in future years hopes to offer purses to attract elite runners like the Boston and New York marathons. "The other local marathons don't have big purses, so that could be something that would set us apart," he said. "The big names in marathoning like Ryan Hall run the big races, but we get the next level in Baltimore. That's the vision for Oakland in the short term. But who knows? Maybe in the long term our purse will get to the same level as Boston."

More than thirty years ago, local boosters expressed similar visions for Oakland as a premiere event on the national running scene. A special race-day insert on December 2, 1979, in the *Eastbay Today*, a now-defunct version of the *Oakland Tribune*, noted that "the first-ever Oakland Marathon has attracted national recognition as a race with the potential to become the Boston Marathon of the West."

At the time, running was booming. Frank Shorter's victory in the Olympic Marathon in 1972, the publication of Jim Fixx's bestseller *The Complete Book of Running*, and increasing interest on the part of Baby Boomers in health and fitness all contributed to an explosion in the sport's popularity.

Initially, the Oakland race was successful in capitalizing on the burgeoning participa-

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Jack Zakarian ran in the 1981 Oakland Marathon and plans to run again this year

Joseph Schell

tion in road racing. In 1979, a total of about 2,000 runners toed the starting line for the inaugural marathon and half-marathon. By 1981, the number had skyrocketed to 6,000 and *Eastbay Today* was noting that the race would "reach five figures by 1983 if it continues to grow at its present rate."

One of those in the half-marathon field in 1981 was Jack Zakarian, a founding member of the Lake Merritt Joggers and Striders. Now 57 years old, Zakarian will be running the full marathon on March 28. "I want to see a big race come back to Oakland. We've had a couple of previous attempts but they didn't last," he said, referring to the previous iteration of the marathon and a race called the Oakland Double 10K. "We'll see if Oakland can make it work this time."

Although he doesn't remember a lot of details about the 1981 race, which featured a flat course between downtown and the Coliseum area, Zakarian does recall that it was a different kind of route for him. "I usually ran more in the country," he said. "I remember going down East 14th Street and thinking, 'What am I doing here?'"

Zakarian notes that the world of running is a lot different than it was thirty years ago. "In the early days, there were recreational runners, but most people were fairly serious about running as a sport," he explained. "Today, a lot of people are running to raise money or for personal growth. I think that's great, but it's definitely different. There's also a lot more knowledge about training and nutrition now. Sports drinks and energy bars weren't very available — Powerbars, electrolyte replacements — we didn't have any of that. When I ran cross-country in college, we had steak and eggs for breakfast on the day of the race. That would be ridiculous now."

A chemical engineer with Chevron, Zakarian will run Oakland despite suffering from tachycardia, a heart condition that he says prevents him from exercising excessively. (Apparently Zakarian has convinced his doctor that a 26.2-mile race with nine miles of uphill does not qualify as excessive.) Zakarian wears a heart monitor to ensure that he doesn't overdo it, and like a true old-school runner, he's not worried about a possible heart attack, but sounds annoyed that his condition affects his race times.

Matthew Rutta, a 39-year-old Oakland-based film and television location manager and producer whose credits include *Milk* and *Rent*, is more representative of the new school of runners.

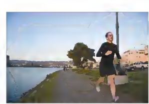
"I mainly decided to run a marathon because I'm turning forty this year," he said while jogging down Hearst Avenue in Berkeley. "I think it's just one of those rites of passage I have stuck in my head — probably due to Oprah running her marathon at forty. I have a laundry list of things I wanted to do before I was forty and that is one of them."

Rutta ran cross-country as a high-schooler in Indiana and has completed 10k races and San Francisco's Bay to Breakers, but nothing remotely close to the marathon distance. While he sees the marathon as a personal challenge, he also appreciates the benefits of running with others. He says he "wanted to be around some folks who are newbies, like me, but also be around pros. Plus, I think it will be a wonderful thing to experience the feeling of completing a challenge as an individual, but also supported as a group."

And once he decided to run a marathon, why did he choose Oakland? "I just thought for my first marathon I'm gonna do it in Oakland — because it's my current hometown, it being the first one in twenty or so years, and I saw the course online and thought, 'Wow. This is gonna be beautiful to witness because Oakland is such a dynamic town,'" he said.

Another big change since the days of the first Oakland Marathon is the number of women hitting the roads. According to Running USA, a national organization that analyzes running trends, women now make up about half of all race participants, compared to just 21 percent in the mid-1980s.

This statistic jives with the Oakland Running Festival training group, which appears to consist of about equal numbers of men and women. One of the women is Barbara Jung, a 45-year-old mother of two and OB-GYN at Kaiser Permanente in Oakland. She's an experienced long-distance runner, with six marathons and four half marathons on her running résumé. She's also fast enough to have qualified to run the Boston Marathon, giving her bragging rights in the world of marathon racing.



Matthew Rutta decided he wanted to run a marathon before he turned forty Joseph Schell

Bei Jung doesn't need to run another marathon to prove anything. She admits that she now runs mostly because she's "a little addicted" to it. "It's therapeutic for me," she said. "A perfect mental break."

Shirley Douglas, on the other hand, says she is only running the race because it's in her hometown. "It's a good opportunity to celebrate Oakland," she said. "The course actually goes through the back of my neighborhood." The 61 year-old retired marketing consultant is philosophical about how her running is progressing. "It's like golf," she said with a smile. "Sometimes it goes well, and sometimes it doesn't."

If you look under "Sports — Racing" in the archives of printed materials in the Oakland History Room at the Oakland Public Library, you'll find a manila folder that contains newspaper clippings and programs covering a century of racing in the East Bay. Among those historical goodies — ample material for a former marathoner to pass a pleasant, nostalgic afternoon — are documents about the Oakland Marathon's genesis and early successes, but not a hint as to the reason the popular race shut down after a few years.

A possible explanation was that the popularity of running in general abated after the boom of the 1970s, and there was a corresponding decrease in financial support from race sponsors. Another intriguing explanation was given by longtime local runner Mike Frankfurt, who attributed the end of the marathon to alleged embezzlement on the part of the race promoter.

Whatever the reason for the failure, Oakland has reason to be cautiously optimistic that this iteration of the marathon will show more staying power.

First, we are in the midst of a second running explosion that makes the one in the 1970s seem more like a firecracker. Participation in road racing is at unprecedented levels. According to Running USA, nearly nine million people participated in races in 2007, more than double the number twenty years earlier. A separate study by Race Results Weekly found that participation in 2009 grew by 11 percent over the previous year.

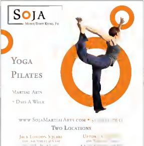
Many of these new runners are interested either in raising funds for worthy causes or in self-actualization. The East Bay, with its legions of socially conscious and self-improving residents, could find that the Oakland Running Festival not only serves their interests but does so in their backyard.

A second factor that might help this race succeed where its predecessor failed is the race course itself. While the original Oakland Marathon course was flat and fast, it wasn't particularly scenic. Even though it incorporated Lake Merritt and downtown, much of the race took runners through nondescript industrial areas near the Coliseum — hardly the stuff of race posters.

The 2010 version, by contrast, starts at City Hall, winds its way up through Montclair, passes by Joaquin Miller Park, and heads back toward downtown. After passing Jack London Square and circling Lake Merritt, the race ends at City Hall. "Oakland gets kind of a bad rap," said race director Brtalik. "My whole thought in designing the course was to make it scenic. I want people to see what it has to offer."

Brtalik consulted with local runners, including Goldman of the Lake Merritt Joggers and Striders and Richie Boulet, who owns Transports running store on College Avenue in Oakland's Rockridge district and is married to long-distance running Olympian Magdalena Boulet. Based on the input he received, Brtalik decided to include a climb up into the hills to the corner of Mountain Boulevard and Lincoln Avenue, near the Mormon Temple. "That corner is probably one of the best views I've ever seen on a course, and I've run a lot of them," he said. "It will be a challenge to get up there, but there aren't too many places with a view like that."

A final factor, perhaps the most important determinant of the race's success, is how well it's organized. Urban marathons are big, complex events requiring committed sponsors, effective marketing, legions of volunteers, cooperation from the city government around street closures and security, and grassroots support from the community. Corrigan Sports took the Baltimore Marathon and gradually grew it into the popular celebration it is today. If the company shows the same patience and stewardship here, the prospects for a 2010 Oakland Run-



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Barbara Jung plans to run the half-marathon.

ning Festival appear to be good.

Bretzlik said earlier this month that the Oakland Running Festival had already attracted more than 5,000 entrants, more than twice as many as the first Oakland marathon and half-marathon in 1981.

On a late February morning, the once buoyant mood of the Lake Merritt Joggers and Striders training group is more subdued. If the November outing was like the first day of school, this day is more like a review session before a particularly formidable final exam. As the group congregates for a twenty-mile jaunt, the weather is gloomier, the conversation between runners less animated, even the running shoes are noticeably less bright.

A lot can happen during the months of preparing for a marathon. Motivation can flag, work and family pressures can take precedence, and as the miles mount, so can the injuries. According to club president Goldman, the training group has shrunk to about 60 percent of its original size. Among the casualties was Barbara Jung, the veteran marathoner with nothing left to prove. She hurt her calf and had to stop running for five to six weeks. Although she still intends to complete the half-marathon, she has abandoned any hope of running the full distance.

While Goldman gives final directions to the training group, a latecomer trots over to join in. It's Matthew Rutta, the 39-year-old who's determined to run a marathon before he turns forty. He's had an ankle injury, but found a great physical therapist and still plans to run the race.

Rutta's determination hasn't wavered. Persistence and a little luck — those are the ingredients for success in a lot of realms, including long-distance running. If Rutta, his fellow runners, and the race organizers remember that, they — and the Oakland Running Festival — should be fine. As the saying goes, it's a marathon, not a sprint. ●

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Running to Washington, DC

Teachers, students, and complete strangers are participating in the Oakland Running Festival to raise funds for a Fruitvale middle school's trip to the nation's capital.

B[illegible]

Dennis Guikema used the Oakland Marathon to help raise funds for his school's field trip.

On any given school day, the walkie-talkie on Dennis Guikema's belt crackles relentlessly. He briskly walks through the halls, energetic blue eyes darting into classrooms and looking into problems. As an assistant principal at Urban Promise Academy, a public middle school in Oakland, Guikema is a man of endurance.

At forty years old, he is tall and thin, a self-assured triathlete and former elite cyclist. But when Guikema heard that Oakland will host its first marathon in 25 years, he thought the race could be more than just another notch on his belt.

Guikema had recently learned that federal funding for his school's student trip to Washington DC had been slashed. He didn't want to cancel the trip. It was too important for his students, who rarely have the means to travel. So Urban Promise Academy would have to raise at least $6,000 to take eleven students to the nation's capital.

Maybe, Guikema thought, the Oakland marathon could help fill the funding gap. If marathons can drum up donations for organizations like the American Cancer Society and the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, why not for a small school in Oakland, too?

On a recent afternoon, Guikema beamed as he pointed to a classroom of seventh graders who had just performed higher on math testing than any other public school in the city, even better than wealthy hills schools. Urban Promise Academy, known as UPA or "OOH pah," also faces different challenges than the typical public school. It doesn't have a track or a gym and only recently installed a small patch of artificial turf. A multi-purpose facility is under construction, but for now students exercise at a local park.

UPA is in the heart of Oakland's Fruitvale district, and four out of five students are Latino. It was founded nine years ago as a grassroots movement to break up large, under-performing schools and create smaller schools where, as Guikema explains, "every kid is known by adults who are invested in their success."

At UPA, that idea has worked. Since 2005, its score in the state's Academic Performance Index score jumped 68 points to 694, placing it in the top third of non-charter middle schools in the city.

But despite academic success, small schools like UPA just can't afford what other public schools have. They receive the same per-student funding from the state, but the overhead costs — ranging from maintenance to security — are spread out across fewer kids. Add in budget cuts — Oakland Unified had to trim $70 million this year alone — and outside fund-raising has become essential. "We would never be able to find a penny in our budget for this trip," Guikema said. "We basically have to hustle."

At UPA, where more than 90 percent of students are eligible for free or reduced-cost lunch, the Washington DC trip is a particularly big deal. Students must be nominated by a teacher, fill out an application, write an essay, and finally be interviewed to get one of the coveted eleven spots. Those students participate in special events leading up to the trip, like meeting Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums earlier this month.

UPA sent students to Washington DC for the first time last year, and they covered many of the key sites, from the National Air and Space Museum to the Capitol building. "My favorite was the Holocaust Museum," said Kim Alvarez, a smiling ninth grader in hip glasses. She liked how the museum explained the Holocaust through the perspective of a young boy. "We were walking through his steps," she said.

At the top of Alejandra Santamaria's list is the Supreme Court. The eighth-grader admires the success of Justice Sonia Sotomayor. "I think it's kind of hard to get there," Santamaria said. Still, she's aiming high. "I'm looking for a scholarship from Yale or Harvard or a pretty high standard university," she said. Other students anticipate seeing the White House, knowing the first black president is inside, and looking out at the National Mall from where Martin Luther King Jr. stood on the Lincoln Memorial.

Funding for last year's trip came almost entirely from the Close Up Foundation, a nonprofit that runs student trips to the capital. But this year, the federal Department of Education cut funding for the Close Up Foundation, which in turn halved the amount it provides for each student. UPA would have to come up with $6,000. A plea to family and friends raised a few thousand dollars last year, but now with such a large sum, Guikema knew they needed to do something more.

Then came the marathon announcement. Most of the faculty members at UPA are young and active, so Guikema asked around to see who might be interested in running to raise funds. Teachers and their friends started signing up for the marathon and the companion half-marathon. With a core group of committed runners, the Oakland Running Festival listed UPA on its web site, and the school's team grew from there. Eventually, seven strangers, who had no prior involvement in the school, committed to the effort.

The school also found ways for students to participate in the running festival. UPA's soccer team is training for the 5K race, and families will staff an aid station along the route, offering cheers and water to runners on race day.

On a recent Wednesday night, under the lights of the Piedmont High School track, a half-dozen UPA runners ran lap after lap after lap. Some were fast, like running coach Claire Blaney or school algebra teacher Christian Kearney. Others took their time, like textbook marketer Talin Wise, who's running her first half-marathon to celebrate turning forty. Wise said that her own middle-school trip to Washington DC had been transformative, so once she saw UPA mentioned on the marathon's website, she took "maybe three seconds" to decide to support the cause.

Wiping sweat off his brow after the training run, Guikema had big news to report. UPA had more than twenty runners supporting the school, and even better, they had already raised $8,000 — way more than the $6,000 goal for the trip. And in the coming weeks, they'd hope to reach $10,000. The extra donations, he said, will support other programs, like student trips to college campuses across the state.

As they stretched at the end of the night, the UPA runners were tired from the laps but encouraged by the success of their efforts. Eventually, they packed up their bags and headed off in the night, with more fund-raising and miles of training left before the big race. ●

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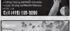
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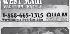

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Philip Huang foists art on an unsuspecting public

By Rachel Swan

One of Philip Huang's forthcoming projects — and he has a slew of them — will involve a guerilla theater performance inside the 24 Hour Fitness in downtown Berkeley. He'll call it "Witness the Fitness." "It's like 'What the fuck are those people looking at, on the treadmill?'" asked Huang, who was never one to shy away from a bemused audience. He's taken the public art concept to all sorts of unlikely places, including a bathroom stall at the Coppola vineyard, several gay marriage protests, and a construction site two blocks away from Ground Zero. When it comes to art, Huang confesses to being a bit of a free-market libertarian. He doesn't believe in grant applications or waiting around for someone else to curate your work. He's skeptical of third-party mediators. He also sees nothing wrong with foisting product on an unsuspecting public.

So you might call Philip Huang a living, breathing, walking piece of performance art. Last Tuesday he went to UC Berkeley — his alma mater — dressed in clothes he'd slept in the night before: a faux camel's hair coat from Banana Republic, Converse sneakers with flames, dark blue long johns, and an orange scarf with tassels. Were it not for the get-up, Huang might have passed for a Cal student. He's 34 years old but looks younger, with his preppy bowl haircut and horn-rimmed glasses. A few months ago he left two part-time jobs — one as an HIV test counselor, the other singing telegrams. Now he writes and performs full time, often staying up until 5 a.m. to work on fiction. (He used to contribute book reviews to the *Express*.) Born in Taiwan, he grew up in Ann Arbor and later immigrated to Phoenix, then to a working-class neighborhood of Los Angeles. He's gay and proud of it, fascinated by all things camp and into being outré. For Huang, the line between "art" and public disturbance is perilously thin.

"That's part of my thesis," said Huang. "Most art sucks, and most artists with careers shouldn't have careers."

Huang has performed in several venues throughout the Bay Area, including Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, TheGarage, CounterPulse, and Oakland Asian Cultural Center — where he premiered *Semen and White Love: A One Woman Show* last year. For the most part, Huang prefers to stage things in his own living room, where he maintains total creative control and collects all the proceeds. Last year Huang held two shows at his south Berkeley apartment building, redubbed "the Dana Street Theater." He said he collected roughly $300 a night. This year he's organizing a Bay Area-wide home theater festival, which will include local choreographer Keith Hennessy, writer Kirk Read, and porn star Annie Sprinkle. "Artists have always made shows in their own houses," said Huang. "But I want to take it to the next level. Let's legitimize it. Let's call it 'theater.' Let's charge money for it, and let's make a festival out of it. My message to artists is 'You don't need an institution to have a career.'"

At this point, Huang seldom uses the imprimatur of a big company. He's the consummate free agent, and it goes beyond having a home theater. Huang subscribes to the philosophy that anything can be a performance, so long as you have the means to document it. Thus, he always leaves the house armed with a small Flip cam and digital recorder. He has a special talent for digesting life and creating spectacle.

His YouTube videos are a mirror reflection of that sensibility. In "Roe Vs. Wade Vs. Philip" he infiltrates a "Walk for Life" rally. "Let's hear it for pro-life!" Huang screams when the camera starts rolling. "Abortions suck. Screw abortions!" After six minutes he gets ejected by one of the organizers. In "Ave Maria" he sings an aria while sauntering down Santa Monica Boulevard. In "Philip Vs. Prop Church" — which was inspired by an *Express* story about Oakland Bishop Salvatore Cordileone — he stands across the street from the Cathedral of Christ the Light at Lake Merritt and asks passersby if it looks like a giant vagina. In "Mariah Audition Tapes for *Precious*" he arranges a towel on his head to look like a big mop of hair and recites Mariah Carey's lines from the film. A minute and a half in duration, the video comprises several close-up shots of Huang, pretending to be a glamour queen, pretending to be a social worker. "Can we talk about the abuse in your household?" he croons. Huang's best video to date is "The Lesbian Homosexual Agenda," in which he hijacks a Westboro Church anti-gay demonstration, carrying a sign that says "No Fags on the Moon."

We've seen this type of protest art before, with the Yes Men, Reverend Billy, and even graphic designer Shepard Fairey — all of whom are famous for inverting hierarchical forms. And Huang sees himself as part of the same postmodern lineage. He cites the British graffiti artist Banksy as his main idol. To a certain degree he's glommed onto the culture jamming phenomenon. But Huang is also a different species of provocateur. His motivations for doing things independently seem personal rather than ideological. He likes having complete control over his work, using theatrical shock tactics, and, above all, getting under people's skin. It wasn't satisfying enough to just get a few Lake Merritt joggers to agree that Christ the Light looked like a vagina. He had to ask if they'd finger it. For his last video, "Drunk White Girls Vs. Drunk Asian Girls," Huang went around *Telegraph Avenue* asking people which group is more irritating.

Last Tuesday's UC Berkeley excursion provided infinite opportunities for more video shoots. Huang had his camera and recorder in tow. He passed through Sather Gate Plaza and gazed into the window of a men's wrestling club. "That's super hot," he said, pointing at the big window as a pair of half-naked men pretzeled each other on the other side. "It's like when you're in a hotel room and you get the 24-hour porn option. You never know what you're gonna find."

Sproul Plaza was fertile terrain. Huang had hoped to find some Tea Party protestors at the lip of Telegraph and Bancroft avenues, but instead he found a more sedate group of sign holders promoting a blood drive. Members of the UC Berkeley Men's Octet were posted at Sather Gate, singing and passing out flyers. A gentleman in an American flag T-shirt held court outside Dwinelle Hall, lecturing about Communism. Huang waded through crowds of students advertising Haiti fund-raisers, Magic School Bus performances, and activist groups. None of them seemed quite worthy of provocation. The singers and blood donors were benign. The American flag guy was too crazy. He passed a "diversity wall" with black-and-white photographs showing slices of the UC Berkeley population. "I always tell people this is a memorial for the students who died during terrorist attacks," he said.

It seemed like Huang wouldn't be able to leave his mark anywhere that day. Then a girl accosted him in Sproul Plaza. She complimented the orange scarf. She asked if he would pose for some type of student-club promotional photo. Huang conceded. The girl set him up next to a handsome young man and had them both hold signs. Huang lay down on the ground and wrapped himself around the other guy's legs. The guy rolled his eyes and laughed uncomfortably. Onlookers snickered. The girl snapped her picture. ●

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/20huang

Rachel.Swan@EastBayExpress.com

4th Annual Oakland Indie Awards

OneCalifornia Foundation and East Bay Express encourage you to nominate & celebrate the independent businesses and artists that give back to Oakland!

nominate by march 24 / party on may 14

Nominees must be either 1) An independent for-profit business based in Oakland OR 2) A visual artist/artisan who lives or has a studio in Oakland.

Oakland Soul - represents the soul, the essence and the style of Oakland, this business or artist embraces diversity & creativity, has confidence in their individuality, helps their brothers & sisters and has no pretensions

Ripple Effect - supports other local businesses and artists by "shopping local" for their supplies and services, creating an economic ripple effect as money circulates within the community

Newbie - an inspiring new business or artist that opened in 2009 or 2010 and is great for any reason you choose!

Greenie - our environmental hero, immersed in sustainable practices, such as creating or selling new items from used materials, using energy efficient appliances, composting, reducing usage of toxic products, or reducing waste

Neighborhood Dynamo - improves their neighborhood by organizing people, beautifying the streets, making streets safe, finding resources, hosting events, encouraging new businesses or artists to come in, or similar activities

Youth Empowerment - has significantly helped Oakland's youth through activities such as programs, mentoring, or donations of time or money

Pillar - is a business or artist that has been around forever, persevering through the good and the bad, mentoring newbies, preserving our city's history, the artist everyone loves, or the classic spot "you have to go to" when visitors come to town

Innovator - excites and inspires you because of a creative new idea or perspective they are sharing with the world

Nominate online at oaklandindieawards.com or mail this ballot to OneCalifornia Foundation 1438 Webster St. Ste 101 Oakland CA 94612

Name of Business or Artist

____

For which category? (See list on left)

____

Why should they win this category?
The more details you give, the better their chance!

____

____

____

____

Nominee's contact info or neighborhood

____

____

ONE CALIFORNIA FOUNDATION

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Your contact info (Optional)
In case we can't find your nominee

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JACK LONDON SQUARE

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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

Moscow State Radio Symphony Orchestra
Robert Cole, *conductor*
Alexander Sinchuk, *piano*
Julien Schwarz, *cello*
Sat, Mar 20, 8 pm
Zellerbach Hall Tickets start at **$28**

Enjoy an evening of Russian masterworks performed by artists who knew them best. The orchestra will be joined by pianist Alexander Sinchuk, winner of the 2009 Rachmaninoff International Piano Competition, and brilliant young cellist Julien Schwarz.

Program: Tchaikovsky/*Romeo and Juliet Overture*; *Variations on a Rococo Theme* in A for Cello and Orchestra; Rachmaninoff/*Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*; Rimsky-Korsakov/*Scheherazade* Symphonic Suite for Orchestra

Ian Bostridge, *tenor*
Julius Drake, *piano*
Sun, Mar 21, 3 pm
Zellerbach Hall Tickets start at **$30**

"Mr. Bostridge's expressive, nuanced and clear voice is also ideal for conveying the despair and amorous longing of Schubert's songs." —*The New York Times*

Considered by many to be one of the finest lieder tenors in the world today, British sensation Ian Bostridge is renowned for his intelligent, emotive singing and respect for language and text. He returns to Cal Performances, the site of his acclaimed American debut in 1998, to perform Schubert's great masterpiece based on the poems of Wilhelm Müller.

Program: Schubert/*Winterreise*

Merce Cunningham Dance Company
Nearly 90²
Fri & Sat, Mar 26 & 27, 8 pm
Zellerbach Hall Tickets start at **$30**

"Cunningham ranks with Isadora Duncan, Serge Diaghilev, Martha Graham and George Balanchine in making people rethink the essence of dance and choreography," said *New York Times* critic Alastair Macaulay in his moving testament to the late choreographer in July 2009. Cunningham's superb company returns with *Nearly 90²*, the peerless artist's final evening-length work, created in collaboration with and performed to a score by Sonic Youth and former Led Zeppelin bassist John Paul Jones.

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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Ise Lyfe

Ise Lyfe Speaks Out, Looks Inward

He's known as an activist poet, but his new show has personal dimensions.

Through more than a decade of poetry slams, album releases, music videos, and magazine articles, Ise Lyfe has been remarkably good at keeping his personal life under wraps. That's no easy feat. The Oakland-raised emcee was an A-guy from middle school forward. He came to poetry in high school, took a job promoting parties for Def Jam at age eighteen, and got on the righteous path shortly thereafter. In the ensuing years, Lyfe worked with several nonprofits and released a spate of metaphor-stuffed hip-hop albums (the second of which is quite good!). He won the National Poetry Slam in 2001, appeared on Russell Simmons's *Def Poetry*, and penned a solo show called *Who's Krazy?* about a one-dimensional man and the pursuit of happiness.

Many poets traffic in emotional terms; Lyfe managed to stay political. He opines about everything and never shies away from radical points of view. He's known for importing battle-rap-style payments into spoken word. But when it comes to first-person disclosures, he's more apprehensive. "We're always talking about how we feel about the world, we never talk about ourselves," Lyfe said, referring to himself and his poet peers. "We'll get up onstage and say, 'Man, the government is on some bullshit!' We never say, 'Man, last night I was on some bullshit!'"

So it's refreshing to see Lyfe take a confessional stance in his new solo show ***Pistols and Prayers***, which happens Monday, March 22 at **Berkeley Repertory Theater** (2025 Addison St., Berkeley). Largely based on Lyfe's book of the same name, it mixes prayers, poems, anecdotes, rhymes, and humor, much of it culled from old journal entries. Lyfe will play three characters: himself, a voiceover narrator, and a wise old dope fiend named Uncle Randy — actually a throwback from *Who's Krazy?* He'll also return to several themes that have become his stock in trade: homicides in Oakland, modern technology, the Obama presidency, and the question of a "post-racial" society. He'll include a poem that analogizes the struggles of African Americans to those of Jewish people in Nazi Germany, plus a spoof about wireless communication devices. "I make fun of people who treat cell phones like electronic leashes," said Lyfe, whose cell phone probably rings seventy times a day — not counting text messages. For all its social dimensions, *Pistols and Prayers* also gets fairly intimate, particularly in a sketch called "My Grandmother Died Today."

Lyfe said he's gone the first-person route before, albeit in a more oblique way. His last album *Prince Cometh* included a line about his little sister being incarcerated. He's also made reference to a homicide he witnessed at age fifteen, which steered him toward poetry. Such glancing allusions don't compare to an intimate diary entry about a grandmother's death, especially when it's delivered onstage, but Lyfe said he's ready to go there. *Pistols and Prayers* features original music by singer-songwriter Melanie DeMore and cellist Michael Fecskes, plus hip-hop breaks by DJ DC of 106 KMEL. It's all part of a new performance series sponsored by Oakland organization SpeakOut. 7 p.m. $10-$20. SpeakOutNow.org or IseLyfe.com

— *Rachel Swan*

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ATTRACTIONS

Oakland Grown Marketplace Featuring handmade jewelry, sculptures, ceramics, paintings, photography, dolls, soaps, blankets, floral arrangements, greeting cards, and more. Info: 510-238-4933. Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free. Frank Ogawa Plaza, at 14th and Broadway sts., Oakland.

Redwood Valley Railway Twelve-minute scenic journey by steam train through the redwoods of Tilden Regional Park. Info 510-548-6100. Saturdays, Sundays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., $2 per ticket. [illegible] Tilden Regional Park, entrance off Wildcat Canyon Rd. and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley. 510-525-2233.

University of California Botanical Garden See plants you won't find anywhere else — more than 12,000 varieties, in fact. Free docent tours Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays at 1:30 p.m.; open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free admission on the first Thursday of every month. Daily. UC Berkeley Botanical Garden, 200 Centennial Dr., Berkeley. 510-643-2755, botanicalgarden.berkeley.edu.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FUND RAISERS

2nd Anniversary Gala & Benefit for Haiti Relief/American Red Cross Hosted by Jan Wahl, with Lucie Amaz, Bacon Bash and Marina [illegible] crew. Wed., March 17, 8 p.m., $75-$175. Hotel Nikko, 222 Mason St., San Francisco.

4th Annual Not-a-Barber Passover Laughter and Numbers Celebration Local artists offer new adaptations of ancient tales. Wed., March 24, 7 p.m., free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

Albany Civic Center Open House & Rededication Tour of the renovated City Hall, Police & Fire Stations & new Emergency Operations Center. Mon., March 22, 7 p.m., free. Albany Civic Center, 1000 San Pablo Ave., Albany.

Folk Songs from Around the World Piedmont East Bay Children's Choir annual spring gala and fund-raising event, featuring gourmet food, wine, and live choral music. Fri., March 19, 6:30 p.m., $125. Albert H. DeWitt O Club, 641 W. Red Line Ave., Alameda. 510-547-4441.

Arroyo High School 40th Anniversary Celebration and Fund-Raiser Music, dance, speakers, a drama skit, and a raffle. Performers include Kent & Cats, Bill Collins, Noah Jones, student musicians, and the Cheeky Monkeys. Fri., March 19, 7-9 p.m., [illegible] donation, raffle tickets 5 for $10. [illegible] Community Church, 10 Kevin Way, Orinda. 510-547-4441, OrindaChurch.org.

Hey I Am Frank Documentary Film Screening and dinner Documentary about the life of Frank [illegible] in the Edison Theater, with a healthy dinner (plus vegetarian options) served at the Niles Cafe. Sun., March 21, 4 p.m., $8-$10. Niles Essanay Silent Film Museum, 37417 Niles Blvd., Fremont. 510-494-1411.

Grenda Wicker Annual Celebration Family event in which participants make wicker sculptures and [illegible] with woven reeds. Sat., March 20, 1-4 p.m., $3, $7. MOCHA Museum of Children's Art, 538 9th St., Oakland. 510-465-8770, MOCHA.org.

KIDS

Art Oakland for Students with Disabilities Ages 8-10 can learn to draw, work with clay, make simple prints, and enjoy an artistic environment in a group setting. Maximum five students per class, call to reserve. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon, $5. NIAD Art Center, 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290, NIADart.org.

Children's Fairyland Weekend Activities Featuring arts and crafts, puppet shows, Bernie's Picaso shows, the animal of the day, and more. Saturdays, 11 a.m.; Sundays, 11 a.m., $6. Children's Fairyland, 699 Bellevue Ave. (at Lake Merritt), Oakland. 510-452-2259, Fairyland.org.

Color My World A creativity workshop for kids grades 2-12. Please preregister. Ongoing; start anytime. Thursdays, 4:15-6 p.m., $15/session or $50/four sessions. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957, FrankBetteCenter.org.

East Side Readers Book Club Book club

PICKS

Bamako Chic Benefit

Normally, it takes venture capital or vast economic wherewithal to grow a business. But women cloth-dyers in Mali started from scratch and created an astoundingly successful cottage industry. In this case, "success" amounts not only to paper returns but also to the producers' staying power. Defying trends toward cheap factory-made clothing, they've managed to turn hand-dyed basin into a popular fashion item and sustain a customer base for decades. Such do-it-yourself entrepreneurship fascinated anthropologist **Maxine Downs** and filmmaker **Maureen Gosling**, who traveled to West Africa to film their new documentary, *Bamako Chic: Women Cloth Dyers of Mali*. They'll show scenes from the film at a benefit this Thursday, Mar. 18, which also features a reception and musical performances by Mamadou and Vanessa, at the **Hillside Club** (2286 Cedar St., Berkeley). 7:30 p.m. $45. MaureenGosling.com/Bamako — *Rachel Swan*

The Silver Screen: Take II

Still shy of its first birthday, **WE Artspace** (768 40th St., Oakland) has already gained tremendous popularity in the Oakland art scene, partly because of its cool owners (Nasman Rosen and Tina DiBiase have plenty of street cred, both as artists and arts boosters), and partly because it's expanded the definition of a gallery. This Sunday, Mar. 21, WE will highlight local up-and-coming filmmakers in an exhibition called **The Silver Screen: Take II.** Featured works include *Auntie but Dreaming* by Jerry Lastola, *Picture Fell* by Laura Zaylon, *Holiday* by John Davis, and a series of shorts by Vanessa Woods. Davis will also perform live. At just $2, it's a cheap date and a fabulous use of curatorial power. 7-9 p.m. WEArtSpace.com — *R.S.*

Cloth dyer
Bamako Chic

Northern California High School Basketball Championships

It's a long haul to get to Sacramento, but it's [illegible] how much harder it has been for the few elite teams still standing in the high school basketball playoffs. The season's best compete on Saturday, Mar. 20, at the capital city's Arco Arena (1 Sports Pkwy., Sacramento). The top three divisions of prep hoops will play for the right to battle Southern California's best the following week in Bakersfield. The East Bay is well represented with teams from Berkeley, Oakland, and Contra Costa still in the mix. The girls and boys tip off at 10:00 a.m. and play on until about 10 p.m. that evening. Hardy travelers are certain to see enough entertaining basketball to make the ride home feel like a slam dunk. $10-$45. ArcoArena.com — *Kibby Kleiman*

for teens and middle-school [illegible]. For the [illegible], call [illegible] at 510-615-5728. Third Wednesday of every month, 2-3 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, Martin Luther King Jr. Branch, 6833 International Blvd. Sundays. 510-615-5725. OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] The Girls Inc. program is for girls who want to earn community service hours they need to graduate from high school. Participants are trained in [illegible] and [illegible] and then put these skills into action by working with the younger girls at the Meyers Center. Teens develop their own [illegible] plans and activities, such as sign language, singing, [illegible] songs, [illegible] games. Thursdays, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Girls Inc. Meyers Center, Alameda. 510-521-1743. [illegible]

Handful Magic Weekend With magicians from all over Northern California. March 20-21, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. $10-$15. Playland-Not-at-the-Beach, 10976 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito. PlaylandNotattheBeach.org.

Kerry's Kids: Henry Robinson A [illegible] health [illegible] doctors, [illegible] immunizations, health education, checkups, [illegible] and [illegible] screenings entirely free to children. [illegible] Please bring your child's yellow immunization card. Fourth Monday of every [illegible] 5:30-7 p.m. 510-444-4276. Henry Robinson Multiservice Center, 559 16th St., Oakland. 510-499-8710.

[illegible] Self Defense for Girls Certified instructor Dan Connelly holds these classes just for girls ages 10-16 combining elements of tae-bo, yoga, Pilates, and kung fu into a noncompetitive, [illegible] workout. Tuesdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m. $10 drop-in and $100 for unlimited classes/month. 510-843-2492. AlbanyKarateForKids.com. Albany Karate for Kids, 1240 Marin Ave., Albany. [illegible]

Las Amigas del Mestizaje: Uncle Fyo Sat., March 20, 10:30 a.m. $4-$5. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

National [illegible] Theater Sing-Along [illegible] Sundays, 2:30 p.m., $4.95 for kids, $7 for each [illegible] Sadie Boy's Cafe, 4287 Telegraph Ave., [illegible] 510-601-1318. [illegible]

Odissi Dance for Kids Beginning [illegible] in Indian classical dance. Saturdays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. [illegible] College of Indian Classical Arts, [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-273-2448. [illegible]

Teen Advisory Board Meeting Call 510-238-3400 for details. Third [illegible] of every month, 5:15 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] Branch, 388 9th St., Suite 190, Oakland. 510-238-3400. OaklandLibrary.org.

Teen Third Thursdays Music, [illegible] board games, and movies. Thursdays, 3-5 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, [illegible] Branch, [illegible] Ave., Oakland. 510-535-5620. OaklandLibrary.org.

Wild About Books Children's program features stories, music, and magic tricks. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. Free. Berkeley Public Library Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

[illegible] On Saturdays, take a [illegible] and meet an animal. On Sundays, meet more animals and learn cool nature facts. Saturdays, 11:15 a.m. Sundays, 1:45 p.m. Free with zoo admission. Oakland Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525. OaklandZoo.org.

Youth Leadership [illegible] Meeting for middle- and high-school-aged youth. Third Saturday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Oakland Public Library, 125 14th St., Oakland. 510-238-3272. OaklandLibrary.org.

LGBT

Dress-Up Wednesdays A [illegible] gathering where transgender girls, cross-dressers, and [illegible]. Enjoy music and a large selection of clothing for the woman in you. Dolls up, make blends, take photos, and get fashion tips. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. $15-20 [illegible] requested. [illegible] 45510 Warm Springs Blvd. #7, Fremont. 510-656-4730. [illegible]

East Bay Front Runners Join the [illegible] group for noncompetitive runs and walks, followed by brunch at a local restaurant. Visit the Web site for weekly locations. Saturdays, 9-10 a.m. Free. EastBayFrontRunners.org. Berkeley Marina, 201 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-6740.

[illegible] Discussion group for gay, bi, or questioning men in their twenties. [illegible], 8-10 p.m. $2-$20 suggested donation. 510-548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

HIV Positive Therapy Group [illegible] sign-up required. Mondays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. $20-$45 sliding scale. 510-548-8283 ext. 243. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

LGBTQ Youth Group Drop-in group for LGBT youth. Tuesdays: arts/crafts/writing/music. Thursdays: hot topics/guest speakers. Fridays: queer movies/video games. Tuesdays, 4-6 p.m. Thursdays, 4-6 p.m. Fridays, 4-6 p.m. Free. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Transgender Legal Clinic AIDS Project East Bay and the Transgender Law Center sponsor a monthly legal clinic, [illegible] you can chat one-on-one with an attorney for thirty minutes [illegible] transgender legal issues. Third Thursday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Transgender Law Center, 1800 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 415-865-0176. TransgenderLawCenter.org.

Transgender Support Group Support group for transgender men and women seeking peer support. Fridays, 8-9:30 p.m. $5-$20 suggested donation. (510) 548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Trip and Light Fantastic Beginners are welcome to learn and participate in two-step, East and West Coast swing, [illegible] Lindy and line dances. First and Third Friday of every month, 7:30-11 p.m. $10-$20 sliding scale. [illegible] 510-798-1343. [illegible] Lake Merritt Dance Center, 200 Grand Ave., Oakland. 510-534-2270. LakeMerrittDanceCenter.org.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Black Rooster Quiz Trivia game for [illegible]. Tuesdays, 8 p.m. Free. Beckett's, 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790. [illegible]

Brainstormer Trivia Quiz Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m. Free. Maggie McGarry's, 1353 Grant Ave., San Francisco. 415-399-9020. MaggieMcgarrys.com.

Sundays de Baladas Community jam session for [illegible], singers, and dancers and play rumba. First and Third Sunday of every month, 3:30-8 p.m. Free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Drinking Liberally [illegible] discussion group. Third Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Third Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. First Sunday of every [illegible] 11 a.m.-1 p.m. First Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. Free. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677. LukasOakland.com.

Know-mad Trivia Night Hosted by Justin & Terra. Mondays, 8:30-10:30 p.m. Free. Nomad Cafe, 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. NomadCafe.net.

Laugh Club [illegible] laughter is good for you, so come down for a half-hour laugh session. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. [illegible] for residents, $2 for nonresidents. 925-218-4090. San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon.

The Living Philosophers Group A [illegible] discussion group. Fridays, 10 a.m.-1 p.m. [illegible] North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-5190.

[illegible] Meetings [illegible] Mondays, 7-9:30 p.m. Free. Imani Community Church, 3300 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-531-6411. ImaniCC.org.

Philosophers' Roundtable A monthly discussion group. Third Sunday of every month, 11-2 p.m. Borders, 120 Crescent Dr., Pleasant Hill. 925-686-4855.

Pub Trivia with prizes and [illegible] jackpot. Wednesdays, 9 p.m. Free. [illegible] Lounge, 2218 Oakland Ave. Sundays. [illegible]

Scrabble Club The club meets [illegible] a month and holds a monthly tournament (fees TBA) that costs $25 for six games. Third and First Saturday of every month, 1-4 p.m. [illegible] 4820 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. [illegible]

[illegible] Cafe A [illegible] discussion group. Every other Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. [illegible] Cafe La Scala, 1453 N Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-935-7779.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

AIDS Relay For Life [illegible] Information session for the American Cancer Society Relay For Life. For info call [illegible] or e-mail [illegible]. Thu., March 18, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. El Cerrito Lutheran Church, 1001 Ashbury Ave., El Cerrito.

Drop-in Sports Schedule Monday: badminton, table tennis, and volleyball 12-2 p.m. Tuesday: basketball 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 11-2 p.m. Wednesday: [illegible] and volleyball 12-1 p.m. Thursday: volleyball 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 12-2 p.m. Friday: badminton, table tennis, and basketball 12-2 p.m. Saturday: 1-5 p.m. Sunday (1st and 3rd): badminton and volleyball 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sunday (2nd and 4th): badminton and table tennis 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Daily. Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. 925-373-5700.

Walk Tours of [illegible] Docent-led tours of Oakland parks through downtown, [illegible] the Port of Oakland, West Oakland, Brooklyn, or Lake Merritt. Meet at 10th Street entrance at 10 a.m. Reservations preferred. [illegible] or 510-238-3514. Third Sunday of every month, 10 a.m. Free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-238-2200. MuseumCA.org.

[illegible] Bike Team Weekly Bike Ride Leisurely [illegible] ride up Tunnel Road and through the Berkeley hills. [illegible] 9 a.m. Free. Nomad Cafe, 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. NomadCafe.net.

Bowl-N-Bowl Mondays, 10 p.m. $1.50 per game. Albany Bowl, 540 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-526-8818. AlbanyBowl.biz.

Rusty Broncos Ski Club Weekly Meeting Recreational skiers, snowboarders, and other snow buffs welcome. Year-round activities include waterskiing, softball, tennis, golf, and more. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. RustyBroncos.com. The Rosemary Restaurant, 1958 [illegible] Rd., Walnut Creek. 925-931-1770.

[illegible] Journey by [illegible] Raft, and Ski Lecture by Erin McKittrick and her husband [illegible]. Tue., March 23, 6-8:30 p.m. Free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-527-4140. REI.com.

Thursday Night Road East Bay Rat Club presents [illegible] ride, [illegible] provided by [illegible]. For info, visit [illegible]. Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. [illegible] through June 8. Free. [illegible] 5627 College Ave., Oakland. 510-428-2181. [illegible]

Worm Composting [illegible] Party [illegible] to learn about turning compost, self-harvesting worm bins, and gardening. Sat., March 20, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Free. [illegible] Rd., Oakland.

SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Golden State Warriors Vs. [illegible] NBA basketball. Wed., March 17, $10-$250. 1-888-GSW-HOOP. Warriors.com. ORACLE Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.

Golden State Warriors Vs. [illegible] NBA basketball. Mon., March 22, 7:30 p.m. $10-$250. 1-888-GSW-HOOP. Warriors.com. ORACLE Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.

Golden State Warriors Vs. Memphis [illegible] NBA basketball. Wed., March 24, 7:30 p.m. $10-$250. Warriors.com. ORACLE Arena, 7000 Coliseum Way, Oakland. 510-569-2121.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

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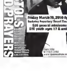
PISTOLS AND PRAYERS
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GALLERIES OPEN UNTIL 9 PM

WILLIAM T. WILEY IN RETROSPECT ★ JAMES CASTLE: A RETROSPECTIVE ★ AHMET ÖĞÜT: EXPLODED CITY/ MATRIX 231 ★ THOM FAULDERS: BAMSCAPE

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CITY OF LIFE AND DEATH

9:10 PM Lu Chuan (China, 2009; 133 mins.)

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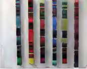
FRIDAY NIGHTS @ BAM/PFA

MUSEUMS & GALLERIES



Elizabeth Sher's "Bars and Tone."

Genius Loci

Former artists-in-residence compare experiences in Berkeley

The old idea of a presiding spirit of place, or genius loci, seems pleasantly anachronistic in our brave, new, wired world just as the idea of regional art styles (or of untutored geniuses for that matter) now seems quaint in our global art market. Can there still be undiscovered, untapped resources? Such thoughts are depressing, and getting away from the chatter and slowing down is occasionally prescribed, even for monkey-brained *Homo urbanus*. The New Pacific Studio is located at Mt. Bruce, on the southern part of New Zealand's north island, amid farming and sheep-raising lands adjoining the scenic Tararua Mountains. Although it sounds about as far as you can get from here, New Pacific Studio was founded by far-ranging denizens of Berkeley and Davis, and its residencies and retreats make for fine antipodean creative hermitages — but not monastic ones, as New Pacific Studio features comfortable accommodations and well-equipped studios (and even Internet access for lonely, dark nights of the soul).

Process & Place: The Transformative Potential of Artist Residencies, curated by Berkeley Art Center's Suzanne Tan and artist Elizabeth Sher, presents the work of six local former residents, **Amy Berk, Edith Hillinger, Brooke Holve, Anne Lamborn, Mary Curtis Ratcliff** and **Elizabeth Sher**. The residencies encouraged the exploration of long-standing interests and concerns, but Asian-Pacific landscape and culture permeate the work in subtle ways. Berk's embroidery piece, "Buddha Smiles (Angkor Wat)," drawing on her travels in Asia, depicts a flotilla of lips resembling origami boats, and smiling only in the most restrained divine fashion — no Cheshire-Cat grins here — hovering in a void or ocean or air. Hillinger's "Floating Scroll" watercolors stack floral motifs, realistic and imagined, into totem-like presences; her "Doubletake Poppy Petal 28 Diptych" juxtaposes photographic and watercolor studies of a beautifully decaying flower. Holve's multimedia installation, "Long Look," Lamborn's weavings, "Sunrise at Mt. Bruce" and "Evening Sky Over Tararua," and Sher's polyptych painting, "Bars and Tone," and video, "Frenzy," employ assemblage and abstraction in order to respond to the New Zealand landscape. Ratcliff's mixed-media works, "Mountains and Sea: Keri Keri" and "Waterweb," combine nature photography with drawing, capturing a specific place and time, yet also transcending them. Catalog with essay by New Pacific Studio director Kay Flavell available. *Process & Place* runs through March 28 at **Berkeley Art Center** (1275 Walnut St., Berkeley). 510-644-6893 or BerkeleyArtCenter.org
— *DeWitt Cheng*

To share this story, go to: ebx.ly/pz/geniusloci

ART GALLERIES

Acme Cafe: Residencies and Change: Photography and Design from residents in the Bay Photography with [illegible] underpinnings by Eva Silva [illegible]. Through April 1. Free. 6334 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-735-0016. AcmeCafe.com.

Alphonse Berber Gallery: Works That Glitter the Moonlight Show focusing on the grotesque and the sublime, featuring work by Anne McKnight, Angie Crabtree, Julia C.S. Davis, Joshua Marlinez, Kim Ye, Igor Maja Rupnic, and Kadet Kuhne. Through March 31. 2546 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. 510-633-8109.

Art Doser Gallery @ Cultural Center: David [illegible], Neil Hammer @ Special Guests Fri., March 19, 7 p.m. $10. 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-412-3177.

[illegible] Wine Lounge & Cafe: [illegible] Presenting wet tile paintings [illegible] by [illegible]. Through April 24. Free. 1808 Oakland St., Walnut Creek.

ArtPho[illegible]. A Studio Form Drawings, paintings, & an environmental installation by [illegible] and Severine [illegible]. March 15-April 30. Free. 423 Water St., Oakland. 510-282-2139.

Bedford Gallery: Story Painters: Drawings, Paintings, Prints, and Tapestries by [illegible], and [illegible] Survey of works by exceptional Bay Area artists. Through April 11. 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-295-1417. BedfordGallery.org.

Berkeley Art Center: Process & Place: The Transformative Potential of Artist Residencies Featuring work by local artists Amy Berk, Edith Hillinger, Brooke Holve, Anne Lamborn, Mary Curtis Ratcliff, and Elizabeth Sher, who all attended the same residency program in New Zealand. Through March 28. Free. 1275 Walnut St. (at Live Oak Park), Berkeley. 510-644-6893. BerkeleyArtCenter.org.

Branch Gallery: [illegible]: [illegible] of Karen Gallagher Painted and hand-drawn works made with an "abstracted" process. Through April 2. 456 17th St., Ste. #308, Oakland. [illegible]

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary: A Thousand Ways to Kiss the Shadow Installations and 3D drawings by Mari Andrews and Sheila Ghidini, comprising natural and man-made materials. Through March 28. Free. 25 Grand Ave., Oakland. [illegible] ChandraCerrito.com.

The Crucible Gallery of Art: [illegible] Group exhibition of 4 [illegible] artists explore an ancient sculptural technique, using a variety of materials. March 18-May 7. Free. [illegible] Building, Oakland. TheCrucible.org/gallery.

David Brower Center: The Lake Project: Photographs By David Maisel Photographs of Owens Lake, a 200 square mile body of water on the eastern side of the Sierra Nevada. Through May 21. 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley.

[illegible] Gallery: [illegible], Oakland: Reflections Photography exhibit. Through March 19. Free. 315 11th St., Oakland. 510-287-1380.

[illegible] Gallery: First [illegible]: [illegible] Pottery by Five East Bay Potters Group show featuring work by Margaret Harmon, Allen Fraind, Kelly Sidari, Claudia [illegible] and Nancy Wood. Opening reception Thursday, March 25, 6-9 p.m. Through April 23. Free. 7600 [illegible] Dr., [illegible]

Expressions Gallery: The Modernists Featuring work by Sonia Mahabeer-Kalish. Through April 10. 2035 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-4930. ExpressionsGallery.org.

[illegible]: [illegible] [illegible] Wagner, Clayton Thiel and Sabina [illegible] (Oakland) transform paintings and conceptual art. Opening reception March 20, 6-9 p.m. Through April 16. Free. 1001 [illegible], Oakland. 510-535-1702. [illegible]

Gallery Extraña: The Art of Emily: A [illegible] Collection [illegible] Featuring work by Emily the Strange creator Rob Reger and fellow Emily artists Buzz Parker, Brian [illegible] and Justin Barry. Through March 29. Free. 2812 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-5685 [illegible]

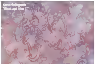
Gallery [illegible]: Paintings by Judy [illegible] Through April 30. Free. 1588 [illegible] Rd., Livermore. 925-371-8280. [illegible]

[illegible] Gallery: [illegible] Members Show With photography, paintings, ceramics, sculptures, greeting cards, decorative

PICKS

Discolorations

Contusions would seem unlikely subjects to paint, especially in the seductive medium of encaustic paint, but the malleable and translucent wax medium, yielding to touch and warmth, readily suggests human flesh. Painter and printmaker **Karen Gallagher** sees scars and bruises as a fading, or permanent, record of an action or event that is intense enough to cause an imprint or stain on the body, according to the gallery press release. It's a surprising declaration of intent since the paintings are delicately beautiful. No lurid purplish-greenish smudges here, just the floral motifs found in traditional embroidered brocades, traced or incised into wax and then filled with powdered pigment. The layered works, given titles like "Black and Blue" or "Bruised Left (or Right) Side," suggest buried, overgrown ruins, or tattoos, or veined marble, softened by time and memory — or perhaps blurred by impact. *Discolorations* runs through April 3 at the Bay Area Visual Art Network's newly inaugurated **Branch Gallery** (455 17th St., Oakland). 510-508-1764 or BayVAN.org. *— DeWitt Cheng*



DeWitt Cheng

BAMscape

Art meets life meets free-Wi-Fi study hall in BAMscape, the Berkeley Art Museum's new interactive sculpture/landscape. Cheeto-hued and wired. The eminent Berkeley architect and artist **Thom Faulders** invented the design, employing digital and traditional vellum technology to manage "dynamic relationships between users and environments active and opportunistic." A hard foam framework supports a skin of painted 3/8-inch birch furniture-grade plywood. At nearly 1,600 square feet spread over 150 connected modules, this gigantic Op art environment invites gentle, shoeless mountaineering as well as hammock-style socializing. Festively inaugurated during the January L@TE: Friday night (with singing by Anne McGuire, projections by Steven Dye, Peter Conheim and Owen O'Toole, DJing by Wobbly and Joe Lobdacker and a no-host bar (this is not your father's BAM), the recyclable BAMscape runs through November 30, 2011 at **Berkeley Art Museum** (2626 Bancroft Way, Berkeley). 510-642-0808 or BAMPFA.Berkeley.edu. *— D.C.*

giants, and jewelry. Through May 1, free. 22394 Main St., Hayward. 510-538-2787. HaywardArts.org.

Oakland Community Art (Historic) Mosaic: Satellite show of "The Art of Living Black," featuring work by [illegible] and [illegible]. Through March 18. 5741 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. NCRC.org.

Johansson Projects. Bronze X: Featuring works by David Tourtellot and [illegible] Lewis. Through March 20, free. 2300 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-444-9140. JohanssonProjects.com.

Joyce Gordon Gallery. For Historic Boos Only: A Celebration of [illegible]: All-female exhibition and performance [illegible] featuring music, exhibit, monologues, and readings. Through March 28. $5-$10 for performances. 406 14th St., Oakland. 510-465-8928. JoyceGordonGallery.com.

Kala Art Institute. [illegible], Hans Bo, and Liz: Historic Bronze Dissolution: Art is Liberation Bronze Sessions of Student Work: Through March 25, free. **Stage:** Group show curated by Lauren Davis, featuring work by Ant Dickerson (Santa Fe), Erik Kartand (Boston), Ali Richards (London), Alex Stone (San Francisco) and collaboration Luther Thie & Historic Yousef. Thu., March 18, 6-8 p.m. Free. 1060 Heinz Ave., Berkeley. 510-549-2977. Kala.org.

La Peña Cultural Center. [illegible] Historic by Rita Sitt: Through March 31, free. **Urban photographs in a Poetic Dialogue:** Photography and poetry by Bay Area artist David Perez. Reception Sat., March 20, 3:30-5:30 p.m. Through March 20, free. **Hispanic Art Exhibit:** Drawings by Jose Cañaveras. Through March 30, free. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Los Gatos Community College Art Gallery. East County High School Art Teachers Exhibition: Through April 15, free. 2700 East Leland Rd., Pittsburg. Info: 925-439-2181x471.

Mama Buzz Cafe. [illegible] Gallery: Three-[illegible] handmade paintings by Judith Klein Mauseder. Through March 28. 591 8th St. [illegible], Oakland. 510-817-5027.

Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Offices. Paintings from Here and Far: Paintings by Seamus Berkeley. Through April 30, free. 101 8th St., Oakland. 510-464-7773.

MOCHA — Museum of Children's Art. Love Your Mistakes? Adult Art Night at MOCHA: Learn to make marbled paper. Thu., March 18, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $[illegible]. 538 9th St., Oakland. 510-465-8770. MOCHA.org.

NIAD Art Center. Animals Everywhere: Joyce exhibition features paintings inspired by the animal kingdom. Through March 18, free. 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290. NIADart.org.

North Gate Library. Marc Simon: Photographs: Exhibit features photographs by Marc Sebert, a traveling [illegible] photographer. Through May 1, free. Hearst St. at Euclid Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-3349.

Photolab Gallery. Emma [illegible], Extremis [illegible]: Photographs by Angelique Chéneval. Through April 17, free. 2235 Fifth St., Berkeley. 510-644-1400. Photolaboratory.com/gallery.htm.

More Listings Online
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Pro Arts. 2 X 2 Solos: Oakland, Animate: Large scale paintings, sculpture and installations. Through April 9, free. **2 X 2 Solos: Luther Thie:** Eagle Smile and Rattlesnake, curated by Anuradha Vikram. Through April 9, free. 550 2nd St., Oakland. 510-763-4361. ProArtsGallery.org.

Rowan Morrison Historic [illegible] Papers, Selagis Records. Papercuts by Gyokei Tanaka: Through April 5. 330 40th St., Oakland. 510-384-5344. RowanMorrison.com.

Sacred Rose Tattoo/SRT Gallery. Urban Rose Kate Slate: Through March 28. 1726 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-883-1089. SacredRoseTattoo.com.

Slate Gallery. Iconic Mexican: Show features contemporary Mexican photography by [illegible], [illegible] and Hugh Cohen. Through March 31, free. 6770 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Studio 730 A. Love of Art Show and Sale: Featuring work by [illegible] Evans, Ted [illegible], Bonnie Trainor, and James Reed. Through March 21, free. 1455 St. @ Brush St., Oakland. 510-853-2122.

Townsend Center. Craig Hagemann: Photographs, painting, photography and collage. Through May 7. 220 Stephens Hall, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-643-9670. TownsendCenter.Berkeley.edu.

Vo Artspace. Historic: Robyn Engel and Michelle Baltic create art from found and forgotten objects. Through March 28, free. **The Silver Historic Tale:** A Night of short film screenings, featuring "Habitat" with a live performance by John Davis, "Awake But Dreaming" by Kerry Laitala, "Flower Fall" by Laura Taylor with music by Matt [illegible] and a new series of shorts by Vanessa Woods. Sun., March 21, 7-9 p.m. $2. 788 40th St., Oakland. VoArtspace.com.

MUSEUMS

Berkeley Art Museum. Assignment Shanghai: Photographs on the Eve of Revolution: Through June 27. **BAMscape:** Interactive sculpture by artist and architect Thom Faulders. Through Nov. 30, 2011, free. 2626 Bancroft Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-0808. BAMPFA.berkeley.edu.

Judah L. Magnes Museum. Projections: Multimedia works from the museum's extensive collections of archival, documentary, and experimental films. Daily. **Memory Lab:** Interactive installation. Museum visitors to create digital family albums, and exhibitions based on their own documents, photographs, and memories. Daily. 2911 Russell St., Berkeley. 510-549-6950. Magnes.org.

Pacific Pinball Museum. Pinball as Fine Art: Overview of pinball-themed art from 1972-2010. Through March 31. $7.50-$15. **Historic Pinball Exhibit:** With 35 wood rails and 20 wedgeheads from Larry Zartarian's collection, plus games representing early pinballs from the Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hakes, Dan Miller, and Historic Schools collections. Tuesdays-Sundays, 2-9 p.m. $7.50, $15. 1510 Webster St., Alameda. 510-205-6959. PacificPinball.org. ●

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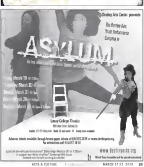
Destiny Arts Center presents
The Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company in
ASYLUM
hip-hop, [illegible] dance, theater, martial arts
Friday March 19 @ 7:30pm
Saturday March 20 @ [illegible]
Sunday March 21 @ 3pm
Friday March 26 @ 7:30pm
Saturday March 27 @ 2pm & 7:30pm
Laney College Theater
900 Fallon Street Oakland, CA
Adults: $15-$25 sliding scale Youth 18 and under: $[illegible] Group rates available
Advance tickets available through brown paper tickets at 800.838.3006 or www.destinyarts.org.
For information call 510.597.1619
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THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

Bobby Caboré Thu., March 18, 7:30 p.m., Fri., March 19, 7:30 & 9:30 p.m., Sat., March 20, 7 & 9:30 p.m. $15-$30. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-227-1800.

Grinding Comedy Night at the Layover Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m. free. Layover Music Bar & Lounge, 1517 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-1517. OaklandLayover.com.

DANCE PERFORMANCE

Destiny Arts Center World Premiere of "Asylum" Movement/theater work created by the young artists of the Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company. Includes hip-hop, theater, spoken word, modern, aerial, and a video rendering. Made in collaboration with artistic directors Sarah Crowell and Rebecca Brown, plus a cast of 40 youth ages 7-18. Starting March 19, Fridays, Saturdays, 7:30 p.m., Sun., March 21, 2 p.m. Sat., March 27, 2 p.m. Continues through March 27. $13-$25.

Tango at the Bellevue Club Buffet and dance performance by tango World Valeria Carmet & Daniel Repertory. Sun., March 21, 6 p.m., $47.50. The Bellevue Club, 525 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. 510-451-1000. BellevueClub.org.

LIVE VARIETY

La Bohème The Current Eves Village Theatre Company includes a multi-media concert based on Puccini's opera. Starting March 18. Thursdays, 7 p.m., Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through March 27. $20-$30. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-865-5060. Rhythmix.org.

The Buster Keaton 'The General' Music at the Movies Oakland East Bay Symphony presents a screening of the classic silent film The General (1926), with Christoph Bull playing an original score on the theater's Wurlitzer. Fri., March 19, 8 p.m. Sun., March 21, 2 p.m. $20-$65. Paramount Theatre, 2025 Broadway, Oakland. 510-465-6400. ParamountTheatre.com.

The Unseen Singalong Lamplighters presents a singalong with live orchestra and beautiful costumes. Sat., March 20, 8 p.m. $18-$33. Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-943-7469. DLRCA.org.

The Sheposophy Female artist showcase blending music, art, theater, and poetry. Third Friday of every month, 8 p.m. Continues; includes Dec. 17. $5-$10. Divinity Voice Music & Arts, 3600 Maple Ave., Oakland. AcquiredtasteCommunity.com/DivinityVoiceMusicArts.

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

The Importance of Being Earnest By Oscar Wilde, directed by Susannah Martin. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Sundays, 3 & 7 p.m. Continues through March 21. Lafayette Town Hall Theatre, 3535 School St., Lafayette. 925-283-1557.

Concerning Strange Devices from the Distant West Les Waters directs the world premiere of the play written by Naomi Iizuka, commissioned by Berkeley Repertory Theatre. Through April 11. $13.50-$71. Berkeley Repertory Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison St., Berkeley. 510-647-2949.

Handless Amy Sass directs this Ragged Wing Ensemble production, in which she reinvents an old folk tale called *The Handless Maiden*. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through March 27. $15-$30. Central Stage, 5221 Central Ave., Richmond.

Learn to Be Latina Mary Guzmán directs the world premiere of Enrique Urueta's farce about pop music, terrorism, race, and sexuality. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through March 27. $13-$20. La Val's Subterranean Theatre, 1834 Euclid Ave., Berkeley. 510-464-4468.

Singin' in the Rain Matthew Graham Smith directs this Comedy Playhouse production of the 1952 musical. Saturdays, 2 & 7 p.m. Sundays, 1 & 6 p.m. Fridays, 7:30 p.m. Continues through March 28. $10-$28. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542. JuliaMorgan.org. ■

PICKS

An Anonymous Story

If Orlov is in any way a "typical" Chekhov character, then it's obvious the playwright had little faith in the hearts of men. He's ungenerous and impertinent with a huge piggybank and mean-spirited sense of humor. Jordan Winer plays this 19th-century Russian brat in a new Central Works stage adaptation, written by Gary Graves and directed by Susan Oliver. He's an interesting choice for the part: small in stature but malevolent, nonetheless. Equally fascinating is Cat Thompson, the tall, steely redhead who plays Orlov's abused mistress, Zinaida. She spends much of the play jockeying for power, both with her master and a jealous maid (Sandra Schlechter), who keeps stealing her stuff. Graves and Oliver wrangle the many themes of the play — class struggle, existentialist political ideals, misogyny, failed relationships, voyeurism — and wind up with a story that falls neatly into place. They use symbols, shorthand. Zinaida's hair slaps from its bobby pins as her relationship falls apart, while Orlov and his friend Gruzin (Dennis Markham) viciously chomp on sandwiches in just about every scene. Originally a novella, *An Anonymous Story* is a tough one to stage — not least because it's narrated by an "anonymous" political spy (Richard Frederick) disguised as a footman. Despite all the complexity, this version is riveting. Through March 28 at **Berkeley City Club** (2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley). $14-$25. CentralWorks.org. *— Rachel Swan*

Destiny Arts' Asylum

East Bay youth have a lot on their minds, from homophobia to food politics. Oakland's multicultural **Destiny Arts Youth Performance Company** lets them express their hopes, fears, and feelings through performance art. See the world from their perspective during *Asylum*, a collaboration among forty Destiny Arts kids, ages six through eighteen, plus noted Bay Area arts professionals. Combining hip-hop and modern dance, spoken word and rap, aerial dance and video, the performers inhabit a world in which heroes are imprisoned, villains run wild, and a new kind of superhero just might save the day. Shows run Fridays through Sundays, Mar. 19-21 and 26-28, at **Laney College Theater** (900 Fallon St., Oakland). The Saturday, Mar. 20 show helps fund the nonprofit's Raising the Roof Campaign. $50 includes reserved seating and a post-performance dessert reception with the artists (limited regular-priced seating is also available). $13-$20. For the complete schedule, see DestinyArts.org or BrownPaperTickets.com. *— Claudia Bauer*

Mirrors in Every Corner

Two [illegible] a lot more [illegible] identity through the [illegible] of everyday life in Chinatown, Hodge's powerful new play [illegible] a white girl born into a black family by True [illegible] aesthetic. Hodge and director Marc Bamuthi Joseph cast a black actress — the amazing Margo Hall — to play both the white girl and her mother. Thus, it's as much about the contingent nature of race and identity as it is about black-white relations. Hall and actor Daveed Diggs (who plays

An Anonymous Story

the cynical older brother, Watts) both have fascinating monologues about color, in which they start with one simile and keep extrapolating (Hall describes the daughter, Random, as "white as snack, like rice, or flour, or other things that come in brown"). Traci Tolmaire and Dwight Huntsman are terrific as the twin brother and sister who alternately pick on Random and victimize each other. The world of *Mirrors*, meanwhile, is saturated with symbols, from Evan Bissell's art installation about gentrified neighborhoods to the mayonnaise jars and Frantz Fanon literature on the bookshelf to the five containers of rice that come in both white and brown. A bevy of talented artists contributed to the success of this play: Joseph turned the actors' movements into dance choreography; Ambrose Akinmusire and DJ TrustUNice created a soundtrack that mixes hip-hop samples and free jazz; and Bissell's set jumbles abstract concepts with real historical events. But Hodge's writing crackles more than anything else. *Mirrors in Every Corner* isn't only a highly original play — it's also poetry. Through March 28 at **Intersection for the Arts** (446 Valencia St., San Francisco). $15-$25. TheIntersection.org. *— R.S.*

THEATER

EASTERN ARCHETYPE, WESTERN OTHER

Naomi Iizuka captures the Meiji era through a post-colonial lens.

By Rachel Swan

Concerning Strange Devices. KEVIN BERNE

A photograph may speak volumes to some of us, but to playwright Naomi Iizuka, its meaning is always negotiable. To put it another way, every photograph is beholden to whatever narrative we foist upon it. That's the idea that animates Iizuka's new play, *Concerning Strange Devices from the Distant West*. Mixing semiotics of photography with post-colonial theory, the play uses a tightly woven skein of images to talk about East-West relationships and the whole vast mythology that informs them. It's heavy-handed at points, with character monologues that sound like essays and a lot of direct references to "Otherness" (the title derives from an instruction manual for a daguerreotype camera that arrived in Japan during the Meiji era). The politics are familiar, but the story is unpredictable.

In this case, Eastern and Western cultures regard each other with mutual suspicion. Isabel and Edmund Hewlett (played by Kate Eastwood Norris and Danny Wolohan, respectively) travel to Yokohama some time in the late-19th century, only to discover that they're more aroused by the Japanese than by each other. Isabel runs off with a rickshaw driver; Edmund with a prostitute. Fellow ex-pat Andrew Farsari (Bruce McKenzie) sets up a photography business through which he contrives tourist images of oyster harvesters, Mud monks, and geishas. Such things will later become the province of Dmitri Mendelssohn (McKenzie), an art history professor who specializes in Meiji-era memorabilia. The line between myth and reality becomes perilously thin.

Show Details
Concerning Strange Devices from the Distant West runs through April 11 at Berkeley Repertory Theatre (2025 Addison St., Berkeley). $16.50-$71. BerkeleyRep.org

Iizuka has an interesting approach in that she likes to formulate a thesis and develop it. Her concept here is something along the lines of "photography as a representation of Orientalist thought." Isabel is drawn to Yokohama partly by familial obligation and partly by a seductive photograph of a half-naked man with tattoos. Edmund, who made his fortune selling guns to the Japanese, fell in love with a sex worker who evidently conformed to his fantasies. She's a recurring tableau in the play, always sitting in front of a mirror, combing her long black hair, waiting for the snap of a camera. Farsari traffics in nostalgia, posing people in bygone-era costumes and hawking the portraits. He takes pictures of white women donning kimonos and Japanese fans. Each photograph becomes a fake historical document, showing archetypes that don't exist anymore except in people's minds.

Rather than burden her audience with connecting the dots, Iizuka uses Professor Mendelssohn as a pedagogical filter. As filters go, he's perfect: wordy and erudite, with a tendency to over-explain things. He imparts a lot of historical context at a critical moment in the play, while delivering a lecture on Meiji-era photography. That's a clever bit of dramaturgy that some will interpret as a copout — it stalls the action, after all, and makes *Strange Devices* seem more pedantic than dramatic. Yet it also reveals something important about the professor's character: Mendelssohn proclaims himself an expert in Orientalist myth, but he's also a myth-maker in his own right.

Strange Devices rests on multiple layers of irony. Mendelssohn lectures on revisionist history — a practice in which he also participates. Manhattanite art dealers (and expert forgers) Kiku (Teresa Avia Lim) and Hiro (Johnny Wu) seem equally culpable. They've found a way to merchandize her ancestry and reap the benefits.

Most of the actors do double duty in *Strange Devices*, presumably to establish parallels between 19th-century Orientalism and 21st-century cultural tourism. In fact, the whole play seems circular. Characters repeat each other's lines; a little girl (presumably Hewlett's daughter) gallops across a video screen in the background; Hewlett's mistress keeps reappearing as an apparition in front of her mirror.

In terms of composition, *Strange Devices* is imaginative and rigorously crafted. Mimi Lien's stark, black geometric set could either be a photo frame or the inside of a camera. Leah Gelpe's video projections show pastoral mountains, modern cityscapes with cars moving at high speed, actors posed in sepia-toned daguerreotypes, and bodies fitting together like puzzle pieces. Camera metaphors abound. In one scene, Mendelssohn spies on Kiku and Hiro through a window that looks like a small peephole. Other scenes end with the flash of lights and the click of a shutter. Another image is frozen in time, and with it another myth consecrated. ●

To share this story go to: ebx.by/strangedevices

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LECTURES & LIT

Gina Welch

The Bogus Born-Again

Undercover in "Christian country," Gina Welch pretended to be an Evangelical

While preparing for her baptism at Jerry Falwell's Thomas Road Baptist Church, **Gina Welch** was handed a checklist. She'd need a towel and a change of underwear. Arriving at the church without the latter, she was advised to rush across the street and purchase it at TJ Maxx. Immersed during the ritual, Welch "saw [herself] pictured on the *JumboTrons*, saw Dr Falwell sitting on the stage, slit eyes turned up toward the baptistry. Flashbulbs glittered." Feeling every inch the impostor she was, Welch struggled to produce "a sweet smile that felt as leaden as my robe."

The baptism — along with the church suppers, the singles group, and the mission trip to Alaska during which she told strangers that they were sinners — was part of an experiment recounted in Welch's new book, *In the Land of Believers: An Outsider's Extraordinary Journey into the Heart of the Evangelical Church*, which she will discuss at **Books Inc.** (1760 Fourth St., Berkeley) on Monday, March 22.

Before moving to Virginia for grad school — which at the time she saw "as a land of elaborate performance art project" — Welch had been raised as a secular Jew by a single mom in Berkeley; her father, a member of the Revolutionary Communist Party, had asserted that faith was obsolete. "When I was a kid, religion barely touched my life, and when it did, it delivered a neat, repulsive shock," Welch reflects now.

Eager to shed her own prejudices about Virginia, Welch realized that to understand its heart, she had to hang with Evangelicals.

"I was squatting in Christian country," she said. "Naturally I felt alien there." In the America that had just re-elected George W. Bush, "I felt it critical to grapple in person with what that meant: What were Evangelicals like when they weren't speaking into a microphone? What was it like in their churches? What was their vision for our shared future?"

So she went undercover, joining Falwell's church because Falwell was so famous: "He was on TV all the time, asserting his prejudices as moral truth. I had this very strong, crazy reaction of him as a *bad man*."

Chatting with fellow churchgoers about angels, miracles, and monsters, Welch began her imposture with blithe nonchalance, viewing the rituals in which she engaged — whose premise she scorned inwardly, but which her new friends "believed was the meaning of life" — as mere means to an end. And while she didn't become a full-on convert, she emerged from the experiment feeling abashed about her fakery and imbued with gratitude toward those she'd planned to mock.

At first, "I couldn't bring myself to take Evangelical Christians seriously," she said. "Of course, once you develop relationships with people and you begin to respect them, you're suddenly struck by the imperative of respecting what they believe." 7 p.m., free. BooksInc.net

— Anneli Rufus

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/xc/welch

LECTURES

Andy Couturier Discussing *A Different Kind of Luxury*. Thu., March 18, 7 p.m., free. Ecology Center, 2530 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2220, EcologyCenter.org.

Day of Action For Rivers, Amazon: Defending Rivers and Rights International Rivers presents a film screening of Amazonia: *Voices from the Rainforest* by Dave Gellner and Mare Agoro. Panel discussion and refreshments follow. Fri., March 19, 7-9 p.m., $5. David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley.

If Not Us, Then Who? Panel discussion featuring Michael Stone, Rabbi. Wed., March 24, 6:30 p.m., $12, $20. Commonwealth Club Office, 595 Market St., San Francisco. 415-597-6712.

Project Management Certificate presents Ben Sandoo Thu., March 18, 6-8 p.m., free. UC Berkeley Extension, 1995 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-642-4111, Berkeley.edu.

Promoting Corporate Responsibility through Shareholder Activism Panel discussion sponsored by the Sustainable Business Alliance. Mon., March 22, 5:30-7:30 p.m., free. David Brower Center, 2150 Allston Way, Berkeley.

Sausal Creek Environmental Education Oakland geology writer Andrew Alden discusses the geology of the Sausal Creek watershed at this lecture/workshop by Friends of Sausal Creek. Wed., March 17, 7-8 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Dimond Branch, 3565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-535-5620, OaklandLibrary.org.

The Secret of Oz Screening of Bill Still's documentary about the world economic crisis, plus a potluck. Wed., March 31, 1:30 p.m., $5. Humanist Fellowship Hall, 390 27th St., Oakland. 510-451-5818.

Speaking in Tongues Documentary Film Screening. Piedmont Diversity Plus presents a documentary about bilingual education programs in Bay Area schools. Discussion follows. For info, call 510-655-8227 or visit SpeakingInTongues.org. Thu., March 18, 6:30 p.m., free. Wildwood School, 301 Wildwood Ave., Piedmont.

LITERARY EVENTS

Albany Library Evening Book Group Facilitator facilitates the group, which features novels about "The American Workplace." Third Wednesday of every month, 7-8 p.m., free. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720, ACLibrary.org.

Albany Library Three-Hour Discussion Group Fourth Tuesday of every month, 1:30-2:30 p.m., free. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720, ACLibrary.org.

Anil Ananthaswamy Discussing *The Edge of Physics*. Thu., March 18, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 4th St., Berkeley.

Annie Leonard Presenting *The Story of Stuff*. Wed., March 17, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 4th St., Berkeley.

Autobiography and Memoir Book Discussion Group Third Wednesday of every month, 6:30 p.m., no cover. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685, Library.hayward-ca.gov.

Book Discussion of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* Sun., March 21, noon, free. Revolution Books, 2425 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-848-1196, www.revolutionbooks.org/.

Rockridge Teen Book Club For information, call Suzy at 510-597-5017. Third Saturday of every month, 1-2 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017, OaklandLibrary.org.

California of the Mind Digital storytelling, which allows people to share personal testimonies. Daily, free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward. 510-293-8685, Library.hayward-ca.gov.

California Writers Club Workshop Open to all writers. For information, call Anne Fox at 510-470-8775. Third Saturday of every month, 1-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library Rockridge Branch, 5366 College Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5017, OaklandLibrary.org.

Chapbooks Reading: ... & the Rain Discussing Eliot's *The Waste Land and Other Poems* and Paul Muldoon's *Flowers*. Thu., March 18, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087.

PICKS

Michael Chabon

In his [illegible] novel *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, Pulitzer Prize-winning Berkeley author **Michael Chabon** presented Alaska, not Israel, as an alternative-reality Jewish State, complete with fractious infighting and fragile hopes. In UC Berkeley's **Wheeler Auditorium** on Thursday, Mar. 18, Chabon talks with professor Robert Alter as part of the Berkeley Seminars in Modern Jewish Culture lecture series. 7 p.m., free. JewishStudies.Berkeley.edu. *— Anneli Rufus*

Anil Ananthaswamy

[illegible] the Andes Mountains and beyond [illegible] cosmology through the eyes of a traveler. Now a *New Scientist* editor living in London, former Berkeleyite **Anil Ananthaswamy** returns to discuss his new book *The Edge of Physics: A Journey to Earth's Extremes to Unlock the Secrets of the Universe* at **Books Inc.** (1760 4th St., Berkeley) on Thursday, Mar. 18. 7 p.m., free. BooksInc.net *— A.R.*

Kathryn Wadsworth

Withered petals, falling bracts, spots, leaves, limp stalks: failure to thrive? Bring your sick specimens to **Mrs. Dalloway's** (2904 College Ave., Berkeley) on Friday, Mar. 19, for a consultation with **Kathryn Wadsworth**. The author of *What's Wrong With My Plant? (And How Do I Fix It?)* offers diagnostic strategies and safe, organic ways to resolve the effects of stress, damage, and disease on plants. 7:30 p.m., free. MrsDalloways.com. *— A.R.*

Kelly Corrigan

Her [illegible] daughter [illegible] cancer [illegible] *The Middle Place*, made the *New York Times* bestseller list, and a YouTube video based on it accumulated over four million views. In her new work, *Lift*, local author **Kelly Corrigan** expands on the support she received from her husband, children, parents, and others. Meet her on Friday, Mar. 19, at **A Great Good Place for Books** (6120 La Salle Ave., Oakland). 5:30 p.m., free. GreatGoodPlace.Indiebound.com *— A.R.*

Kelly Corrigan

Daniel Alarcón Daniel Alarcón will discuss and sign the new anthology about writing he has edited, *The Secret Miracle: The Novelist's Handbook*. Sat., March 20, 7-8:30 p.m., free. dieselbookstore.com/event/oakland-daniel-alarcon-discusses-secret-miracle. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

Debra Lee Baldwin Discussing *Succulent Container Gardens*. Sun., March 21, 4 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's Library and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Dimond Genre Book Discussion Group A monthly literary circle for adults. Fourth Monday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Dimond Branch, 3565 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland. 510-[illegible]. OaklandLibrary.org.

Eating Our Way To World Peace Speakers include Will Tuttle, author of *The World Peace Diet*, vegan nutritionist [illegible], Joyce Tischler, co-founder and general counsel for the Animal Legal Defense Fund, and [illegible]. Sponsored by the San Francisco Vegetarian Society, Go Vegan Radio, Golden Era Restaurant and Loving Hut Restaurant. Sat., March 20, 1-3 p.m., free. San Francisco Public Library, 100 Larkin St., San Francisco. 415-557-4400.

Gina Welch Discussing *In the Land of Believers*. Mon., March 22, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc., Berkeley, 1760 4th St., Berkeley.

Kathryn Wadsworth Discussing *What's Wrong With My Plant? (and How Do I Fix It?)*. Fri., March 19, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's Library and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Kelly Corrigan Discussing *Lift*. Fri., March 19, 5:30 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland. 510-339-8210. greatgoodplace.indiebound.com/.

Kensington Library Book Club Fourth Monday of every month, 1 p.m., Kensington Branch Library, 61 Arlington Ave., Kensington. 510-524-3043.

Lakeview Poetry Writers workshop facilitated by [illegible]. Tue., March 23, 6-8 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland. 510-238-7344. OaklandLibrary.org.

Melrose Genre Book Discussion Group Fourth Monday of every month, 6 p.m., Oakland Public Library, Melrose Branch, 4805 Foothill Blvd., Oakland. 510-535-5623. OaklandLibrary.org.

Michael Chabon in Conversation with Robert Alter Berkeley Seminars in Modern Jewish Culture lecture. Thu., March 18, 7 p.m., free. Wheeler Auditorium, UC Berkeley, Berkeley. 510-642-[illegible].

[illegible] Book Group Call [illegible] Oakland at 510-883-3540 for more info. Saturdays, 3-5 p.m., free. Grand Lake Neighborhood Center, 530 Lake Park Ave., Oakland.

OPL [illegible] Book Discussion Group Come share your enjoyment of reading with others in the community. Fourth Monday of every month, 6:30 p.m., Oakland Public Library, Golden Gate Branch, 5606 San Pablo Ave., Oakland. 510-597-5023. OaklandLibrary.org.

Poetry Flash at Moe's Books, [illegible] Books anthology, John Beer, Ish Klein, & Paul Ebenkamp Thu., March 18, 7:30 p.m., free. Moe's Books, 2476 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2087.

Poetry Flash Presents Janet [illegible] & [illegible] Sun., March 21, 3 p.m., free. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

Public [illegible] Award Ceremony Lunch options of [illegible], or eggplant parmagiana. Send check and order to [illegible], 1515 Poplar Ave., Richmond, CA 94805-[illegible]. Sat., March 20, noon, [illegible]. [illegible]'s Restaurant, 8521 [illegible], Oakland. 510-[illegible]-0653.

[illegible] Book Club Fourth Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m., free. El Cerrito Library, 6510 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito. 510-526-7512. CCCLib.org.

Sara Houghteling Discussing *Pictures at an Exhibition*. Thu., March 18, 7:30 p.m., free. Mrs. Dalloway's Library and Garden Arts, 2904 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-704-8222. MrsDalloways.com.

Ted Conover Discussing *The Routes of Man: How Roads Are Changing the World and the Way We Live Today*. Wed., March 17, 5:30 p.m., free. North Gate Library, Hearst St. at Euclid Ave., Berkeley. 510-643-[illegible].

PUBLIC INTEREST

Census Questionnaire Assistance [illegible] Bilingual Chinese-speaking volunteers help fill out 2010 census [illegible]. Fri., March 19, 1-5 p.m., free. Oakland Public Library, Asian Branch, 388 9th St., Suite 190, Oakland. 510-238-3400. OaklandLibrary.org.

For the Campaign to Eliminate Violence Forum Free childcare provided. Keynote speakers are [illegible] of Bay Area Genesis Project and Natalie Hughes of the Highland Hospital Domestic Violence Center. Fri., March 19, 7 p.m., free. South Bay Community Church, 47385 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont.

SPOKEN WORD

Café Poetry Featured readers and an open mic. [illegible] Moore, aka Paradise Freejahlove, and Nina Allen host alternating weeks. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., donations requested. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

[illegible] Extremes With poet Jayne Lee and comedian [illegible]. Thu., March 18, 6 & 9 p.m., $8-$10. [illegible] Music & Arts, 2564 Mapie Ave., Oakland. [illegible].

Rock Bottom A night of poetry and [illegible]. Thursdays, 8:30-10:30 p.m., donations requested. Eastside Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland. 510-533-6629.

Margaret Ronda & Book Tour Poetry Reading Margaret Ronda will be in-store for the launch of inaugural collection of poetry, *Personification*. [illegible] a 2004 [illegible] Endowment for the Arts poetry fellow, a [illegible] Stegner Fellow at [illegible] University. Thu., March 18, 7-8:30 p.m., free. dieselbookstore.com/event/oakland-margaret-ronda-[illegible]-poetry-reading. Diesel, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. 510-653-9965. DieselBookstore.com.

[illegible] Experimental poetry and [illegible]. Third Sunday of every month, 7 p.m., 21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space, 416 25th St., Oakland. 510-444-7263. 21Grand.org.

Oakland Slam A spoken-word competition hosted by [illegible] with DJ [illegible]. Third Thursday of every month, 8 p.m., $3-$5. Oakland Metro Operahouse, 630 3rd St., Oakland. 510-763-1146. OaklandMetro.org.

Storytelling Swap Storytelling open mic hosted by [illegible]. Starting March 18. Third Thursday of every month, 1-5 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31, free. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

Synergy Women's [illegible] Collegial women's reading hosted by [illegible]. Info: 510-337-7548. Third Sunday of every month, 3-5 p.m., free. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957. FrankBetteCenter.org.

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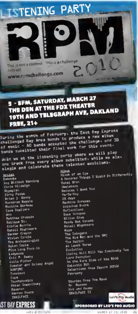
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Monstrum Sepsis	28 days
Machine Screams	Machine Screams
Cave Dwellers	Unlocked Doors
Ann	Reflections
Matthew Grounds	Sock Octopus
Guilene St.	Willow Blue
Eddie Borris	Ready Set Gonads
Retail Nightmare	Retail Nightmare
Xander Crayon	Keys
Vivian Circle	The Integers
The Archaeologist	The Old Man and the MPC
Dylan Coyle	The Switch
Mile Long Post-it	At Least Three
Ladymade	Evolution
Eric M. Desby	Living Will Kill You Eventually Too
Colin Fisher	Lord Fennyton
Zumstar and Galaxy Angel	On the Dark Side of the BGG
SUBFIRE	Galactic DUB
Tunnelbeat	Selections from Export DEPGH
Cops	February
Touchphonics	
Helen Svanitsky	Stories From The Road
Mauwren	Mr. Munson
Warren Peace	Hot and Heavy
SNAILFACE	SNAILFACE II

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BODY&SOUL

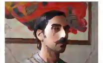
Old Gods, New Look

Modern Tantric art is a little bit baroque, a little bit Bollywood.

For more than a thousand years in Nepal, gods and goddesses were always depicted in exactly the same style. Known as *thangkas*, these traditional images painted on silk had a flat, two-dimensional quality and followed a geometric formula with body parts, implements, and symbols plotted on a grid.

But while leafing through a catalog one day in the 1930s, a young Nepali artist named Anandamuni Sakya saw for the first time ever Botticelli's *Birth of Venus*. Awestruck, he took up his brush and painted a lithe, supple, unprecedentedly lifelike Bodhisattva of Compassion on the half-shell floating in the sea.

It was revolutionary. "Before that, traditional religious art from that region would not have had much shading or movement. You might have a scarf around a figure's neck, floating in the wind, but you'd never have a body twisting on the axis," explained art historian **Siddhartha V. Shah**, a leading expert on the Newar art renaissance that Sakya started, a modern Tantric movement in which contemporary Nepalis recast Buddhist and Hindu iconography with a dazzling blend of Renaissance, Baroque, and Bollywood sensibilities.



Siddhartha V. Shah

In these rhapsodic, spellbinding works, familiar motifs such as flames, lotuses, dragons, drums, sandals, and serene seated Buddhas come alive with electric colors, clearly delineated abs, and flexed fingers — even if the deity in question has eighty to flex.

Traditionally depicted as a woman in a hot-pink sari astride a crocodile, river-goddess Ganga appears in one Newar painting completely submerged, encircled by a rainbow and flanked by bubble-blowing fantail fish. Her smile and rampant hair evoke Stevie Nicks.

"It's a whole new way of representing her," Shah said. But it's still spiritual and useful as a meditation tool. As part of a benefit for the nonprofit Trika Institute that begins with a wine-and-food reception, Shah will auction off modern Tantric works at **Piazzolo** (5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland) on Sunday, March 21. The paintings are on display at the restaurant until then.

Raised in a traditional Hindu household in Chicago, "I was supposed to be a doctor," Shah reflected. "My father's a doctor. My brother's a doctor. But I was always really, really interested in mythology." So he earned a degree in art history at Johns Hopkins University before moving to the Bay Area. These days, he visits Nepal frequently and tours the world exhibiting and lecturing on modern Tantric art.

Tantric art, he explained, is characterized by "a lot of wrathful, bizarre, and esoteric deities" such as Kamakhya, "who represents the sexual organs of the great goddess," and fearsome but compassionate Vajrayogini. "She's sixteen years old, her nipples are erect, and her skin is the color of menstrual blood."

Shah relishes the effect of Newar paintings on viewers who "suddenly have a relationship with these images, even if they're not Hindu or Buddhist," he said. "They start out thinking they want a nice little Buddha, but they go home with a four-headed goddess." 6 p.m., $25. TrikaInstitute.org

— Anneli Rufus

To share this story go to: ebx.ly.sc/shah

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Bay Street Sneaker Strides Fitness program for moms to incorporate power walking, jogging, body toning, and strength and flexibility training into their baby strolls. Info: 805-655-0395 or SneakerStrides.net/bayst. Fridays, 10:30 a.m., first class is free. $120 for a 10-class pass. Old Navy, 5619 Bay St., Emeryville.

Community Healing Night With workshops and demos by professional healers and technicians. Refreshments, samples. Fourth Wednesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. free. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-865-5060. Rhythmix.org.

Elements of Being & Chiropractic Experience Vortex Open house with wine, cheese, chair massages, and inspirational lectures with owner and chiropractor Dr. Kevin Flegel, self care specialist Becky Suzanne Dixon, and reflexologist Lori Gordon. Sat., March 20, 1-4 p.m. free. Elements of Being, 5845 Claremont Ave., Oakland. 510-923-9563. ElementsofBeing.com

Homeopathy Every Day Study Group Thu., March 18, 6-7 p.m., $5. Office of Myra Nissen, 43 Quail Ct., Walnut Creek. 925-[illegible]. MyraNissen.com

March Cal Well Library Series in Oakland: Chronic Pain Specialist Maggie Phillips A conversation with North Atlantic Books publisher and writer Emily Hough. Sat., March 20, 2-4 p.m., free. Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch, 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100. BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction Course Eight-week session course led by Bob Stahl. For info, visit StressReductionatWork.com. Thursdays, 7 p.m. Continues through March 25. $300. Acupressure Institute, 1533 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

A Taste of Reversing Diabetes Naturally Documentary screening, food samples, and lecture by NBA champ John Salley. Sun., March 21, 4:45-8 p.m. $20-$65. East Bay Church of Religious Science, 4130 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-420-4363. ReligiousScience.org.

PERSONAL GROWTH

Finding the Heart of Pilgrimage Eight-week support group. Each person chooses a pilgrimage. Call first: 510-528-1550 or visit [illegible]. Tuesdays, 1-5 p.m. Continues through April 27. $250 for 8 weeks. Acupressure Institute, 1533 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Look Good... Feel Better Cosmetologists and wig consultants help women with cancer cope with appearance changes. Fourth Monday of every month, 10 a.m.-noon. free. Alta Bates Medical Center, Herrick Campus, Berkeley. 510-204-4444.

Nourishing the Mind-Body Connection Four-class workshop for cancer survivors. Call 510-869-8833 for information. Second and Fourth Tuesday of every month, 1:15-3:30 p.m., free. Alta Bates Medical Center Summit Campus, 450 30th St., Oakland. 510-869-8735.

Screening of Mildred Crieghead: Praying with Images Haunting documentary chronicles the life and work of an artist, mystic, and [illegible]. Tue., March 23, 7-8 p.m., free. First Congregational Church, 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley. 510-848-3696.

[illegible] Celebration Ani Bird and friends present local women Tantric artists, musicians, and artists. Sun., March 21, [illegible] p.m., $10. Art Women Gallery & Moment Center, 3076 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-473-3170.

A Taste of Freedom Shabbat dinner with Freedom Seder. Childcare free by reservation. RSVP required. Fri., March 19, 6:15-8 p.m. $7 [illegible] Congregation [illegible] 409 Liberty St., El Cerrito.

Unity Peace Festival Artists invited to submit poems, videos, music, and essays inspired by the theme "What Peace Means to Me." For info, visit UnityPeaceFestProject.com. Sat., March 20, [illegible] Unity Church of Berkeley, 2600 Le Conte Ave., Berkeley.

YOGA & BODYWORK

7th Heaven Community Acupuncture Clinic Acupuncture and Chinese herbs in a community clinic setting. Tue., March 23, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. $20-$40. 7th Heaven Yoga, 2820 7th St., Berkeley. 510-665-4320. 7thheavenyoga.com.

Gentle Healing Yoga Tuesdays, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through May 1, $2-$10. Piedmont Yoga Studio, 3966 Piedmont Ave., Oakland.

PICKS

Sacred Music Concert

Mills College grad **Snatam Kaur** grew up in a Sikh household in Marin County, and her mother was a kirtan singer. Kaur's many sacred music CDs, which include *Prem*, *Grace*, and *Celebrate Peace*, feature chants and original compositions based on traditional Sikh mantras, often with English lyrics. Kaur's only Bay Area concert for 2010 is Friday, Mar. 19, at the **Scottish Rite Temple** (1547 Lakeside Dr., Oakland). 8 p.m., $35-$55. Rudramandir.com *— Anneli Rufus*

Indigenous Dream Workshop

The indigenous Achuar people of the Amazon rainforest pay close attention to their dreams, awakening daily before sunrise to describe them; tribal decisions are often based on elders' analyses of community members' dreams. On Saturday, Mar. 20, at the **Dream Institute** (1672 University Ave., Berkeley), psychoanalysts **Charles Fisher** and **Beth Kalish-Weiss** discuss their three visits with the Achuar. 3 p.m., $15. DreamInstitute.org *— A.R.*

Spring Equinox Frame-Drum Workshop

[illegible], the frame drum is one of humanity's most ancient musical instruments, said to promote healing and meditation. And it goes by many different names, from Ireland's bodhran to Brazil's pandeiro. Drums are provided at a **spring equinox frame-drum workshop** on Friday, Mar. 19, in the Isaac Hecker Room of **Newman Hall** (2700 Dwight Way, Berkeley). All proceeds go toward meals for the poor. 7 p.m., $15. CalNewman.org *— A.R.*

Snatam Kaur

Breast Cancer Survivors' Yoga

Celebrate survival and get strong with **Healing Warrior Yoga Therapy**, a six-week yoga program designed to fight and prevent breast cancer. An introductory session at **Lifestretch Yoga Studio** (39252 Fremont Blvd., Fremont) on Saturday, Mar. 20, allows survivors at all skill levels to meet the teachers, experience some of the poses, and ask questions about how they heal the body. Noon, free. LifeStretchYoga.com *— A.R.*

Reverse Chronic Illness

Learn the Buteyko Breathing Method for the treatment and reversal of chronic disease such as asthma, allergies, chronic fatigue, diabetes mellitus and anxiety disorders with Senior Buteyko Practitioner Christopher Drake and Associate Practitioner Ryan Bowe

For more information or to register for the workshop please contact Ryan at (707) 592-1044 or email at ryan@learnbuteykousa.com. Also visit us at www.learnbuteykousa.com

Buteyko Workshop In Berkeley
Monday March 22 to Saturday March 27 (excluding the 23rd)
at 7:30pm each evening, 5:30pm on the 27th
at Rudramandir 830 Bancroft Way Berkeley CA, 94706

Workshop Goals and Outcomes:
Using the Buteyko Method, students will be able to:
Stop asthma and allergy attacks and improve breathing
Reduce the effects of stress and anxiety and establish healthy sleep
Increase energy levels and overcome fatigue
Develop mental calm and clarity
Enhance yoga and meditation practices

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Find a Place to Drink in Jack London Square

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OAKLAND
RUNNING FESTIVAL

03.28.10

OFFICIAL RACE GUIDE & PROGRAM

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64
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Eastmont Wellness Center • 6955 Foothill Blvd , Oakland • 510 567-5700
Newark Wellness Center • 6066 Civic Terrace Ave , Newark • 510 505-1600
Winton Wellness Center • 24100 Amador St , 250 Hayward • 510 266-1700
Highland Hospital Clinics • 1411 E 31st St. Oakland • 510 437-4600

www.acmedctr.org

LETTERS

On behalf of the citizens and City of Oakland, it is my honor to welcome all participants in the inaugural Oakland Running Festival. This new event is as exciting for our city as it is for all of you who have chosen to participate in the various races. The return of the Marathon to our city after 25 years is a great asset.

Many thanks to the city agencies – Police, Public Works, Community and Economic Development, and the Oakland Convention & Visitors Bureau who committed their time, talent and expertise to assure the Oakland Running Festival will be a first-class event for years to come.

In addition to the economic impact the Running Festival brings, runners and their families from other states and countries will get to experience Oakland. Thus this event serves as a wonderful platform to show off our great city to first time visitors. These visitors will soon learn of our tremendously temperate weather conditions and our variety of attractions, including: sports complexes, one of the finest regional museums in the Bay Area, a 525 acre zoo that is home to more than 440 native and exotic animals, Lake Merritt – one of the country's largest lakes located in an urban area, the historic Jack London Waterfront, a bustling Chinatown, and a vibrant Uptown arts and entertainment district.

In keeping with Oakland's reputation as one of the most environmentally conscious cities in the United States, this event will minimize the impact of the tons of compostable and recyclable trash generated by thousands of thirsty and hungry runners and their cheering families.

Furthermore, local charities will benefit from the revenue generated from the Oakland Running Festival. I am proud of the commitment of all who have helped to make this day possible in our great city, especially the hundreds of volunteers.
Thank you for choosing the Oakland Running Festival. See you at the finish line!

Sincerely,

Ronald V. Dellums

Ron Dellums
Mayor
City of Oakland

Dear Friends & Runners:

Welcome to the inaugural Oakland Running Festival! This new event promises to be exciting and memorable not only for the runners but for the entire city.

The Oakland Running Festival is a major undertaking that depended on the cooperation of city agencies and the community for its success. Our police, fire, public works, parks and recreation, transit and traffic departments worked tirelessly throughout the year with Corrigan Sports, our event coordinator, to make this one of the best marathons in the country.

The Oakland Running Festival is unique in that it offers a Marathon, Half Marathon, 4-Person Team Relay, 5K and Kid's Fun Run, accommodating the running abilities of a range of participants. The festival highlights the benefits of physical exercise and its positive impacts on personal and community health.

The atmosphere will no doubt be a celebratory one for this inaugural event. We are grateful to Lee Corrigan and his team, and look forward to many more years of working with them to ensure the success of this event.

We wanted to thank all the sponsors, including Geico, Kaiser Permanente, local professional sports franchises and the official medical provider Alameda County Medical Center. The ultimate winners of this event are the local charities who will benefit from revenues generated by the Oakland Running Festival. We are proud of the commitment of all who helped to make this day special for our great city, especially the festival's hundreds of volunteers.

To all the runners, enjoy our city. We enjoy having you and we look forward to your return next year.

Sincerely,
Oakland City Council

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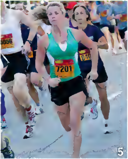

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE RUNNING FESTIVAL PLANNING COMMITTE

GENE BRTALIK - Race Director
TOD VLDOCK - Assistant Race Director
LEN GOLDMAN
SIMONE ADAIR
MATTHEW HUI
THOMAS KNIGHT - Course Certification
JOE DAVIS - Course Certification
CHRISTINE CHAPON - Asst. Volunteer Coordinator
FRED BOWE - Head Volunteer Coordinator
JOEL ROY - Massage Coordinator

THE CSE STAFF INCLUDES

LEE CORRIGAN
GENE BRTALIK
GREG EDMONDS
JANET NOVAK
DAVID GELL
LAURA JAMES
MARK RAGONESE
CHRIS TOMLINSON
TOM TRUFFER
SUSAN WARPINSKI
DON ABRAMSON
MATT CORNELL
SUSAN FU
RYAN HEACOCK
JIM MARLATT
TOM MILCH
LEE THOMPSON
CHRISTINE BRUS

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DAN LINDHEIM, CITY ADMINISTRATOR

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NANCY NADEL, COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 3
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LEONIE - FLYSCOOTERS
DR. VALERIE NG - ALAMEDA COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER
MELISSA OWSLEY - ONCO PACE TEAM COORDINATOR
WENDI PLATT - GREENLAYER
LITONNYE BOMBIER - OAKLAND MARRIOTT CITY CENTER
JOEL ROY - AVANTI FIT
DR. ROBERT SAVIO - ALAMEDA COUNTY MEDICAL CENTER
JENNIFER SCANLON - KAISER PERMANENTE
SCOTT STAFFORD - CHI GROUP
MIKE TAGMAN - AMR
DAVID TUCKER - WASTE MANAGEMENT
MELANIE WALTON - OAKLAND MARRIOTT CITY CENTER
RHONDA WEBER - STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

RACE DAY RACE INFORMATION

NO REGISTRATION OR PACKET PICK-UP ON RACE DAY

SATURDAY MARCH 27

9AM-6PM	Packet Pick-Up, Sports Expo, and Late Registration
6-9PM	Kick Off Party with Live Music and More!! At Lake Merritt
6:30 PM	Twilight 5K at Lake Merritt
8PM	Twilight 5K Awards Ceremony

SUNDAY MARCH 28

7:15AM	Opening Remarks and National Anthem
7:30AM	Marathon and Team Relay Races Start
8:30AM	Kids Fun Run Start
9AM	Half Marathon Start
7AM-3PM	Celebration Village Open
10:30AM-2PM	Live Music on the Stage
12:00PM	Award Ceremonies

Paramount Theatre

College Avenue

Lake Temescal Park

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RACE DESCRIPTION

OAKLAND MARATHON & RELAY

START LINE AT 14TH AND BROADWAY STREETS

RACE TIME 7 30 AM

After more than 25 years, a marathon will again take place through the streets of Oakland.

The 2010 course shows the great diversity of Oakland as Runners will begin on Broadway race along Piedmont and College Avenues, pass by beautiful Lake Temescal and then tackle the hills of Montclair After a breathtaking view of the Cities by the Bay runners will journey through the vibrant neighborhoods of Dimond, Fruitvale, Chinatown and historic Jack London Square Then it s a final lap around sparkling Lake Merritt and a sprint to the finish at City Hall. The course is challenging but fair and a great test for any marathoner

The merge point between the marathon and half marathon will be at 5th St and 8th Ave. Participants in the marathon will receive a Greenlayer performance quarter-zip pullover as part of their registration fee.

HALF-MARATHON

START LINE AT 14TH AND BROADWAY

RACE TIME 9 00 AM

The half marathon is a great training race for any spring or summer marathon The merge point between the marathon and half-marathon will be at 5th St and 8th Ave The half marathon will start at 14th and Broadway splitting after 2/10 mile and will regain the marathon route around mile 16.5 The additional 3 5 miles of separation between the courses will alleviate the "bunched up" merge point and make for a smooth transition

Participants in the half marathon will receive a Greenlayer long sleeve performance shirt as part of their registration fee.

KID'S FUN RUN

PARTICIPANTS WILL GATHER IN FRANK OGAWA PLAZA PRIOR TO RACE RACE TIME 8 30 AM

The Kid's Fun Run is open to all children 12 and younger The run will consist of two age divisions

7 & Under RED Division (8 30AM start) and

8-12 BLUE Division (8 40AM start).

The age groups will run various lengths with all participants crossing the same finish line as the marathoners. All participants will receive a medal t shirt and refreshments

AGE DIVISION FUN RUN DISTANCE

7 & UNDER (RED) 100 YARDS

8-12 (BLUE) 1 MILE

PARENTS Upon arrival at Frank Ogawa Plaza, please bring your child(ren) to the Celebration Village and place them with their respective COLOR division. Each color division will be led to the appropriate start line

5K (SATURDAY, MARCH 27)

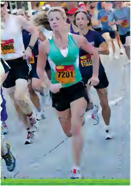
START LINE AT LAKE MERRITT OUTSIDE LAKEVIEW BRANCH LIBRARY

RACE TIME 6 30 PM

Containing just as much fanfare as the other races, the fast and competitive 5K will start and finish at the same point around Lake Merritt The 5K is a great way to be a part of the Oakland Running Festival without all the training

The 5K begins at 6 30 PM. All runners receive a Greenlayer performance apparel shirt and refreshments

RACE DESCRIPTION



RELAY EXCHANGE POINTS:

There are three relay exchange points on the course that can be reached via bus, BART or your own transportation (Be aware there will be limited parking and access at each site and through the course). All buses leave Frank Ogawa Plaza on Clay Street next to City Hall.

Buses or BART will transport relay runners back to Frank Ogawa Plaza upon completion of their relay run. BUSES ARE FOR RUNNERS ONLY. Listed below are the relay legs as well as the bus schedule for the exchange points.

TEAM RELAY

LEG 1 (6.0 MILES)

START 14th Broadway Streets
FINISH Lake Temescal Park

LEG 2 (5.5 MILES)

START Lake Temescal Park
FINISH Champion St. (Under 580 Overpass)
• Bus Departs PROMPTLY at 7:00 AM

LEG 3 (7.5 MILES)

START Champion St. (Under 580 Overpass)
FINISH 7th St. and Mandela Pkwy
• Bus Departs PROMPTLY at 7:45 AM

LEG 4 (7.2 MILES)

START 7th St. and Mandela Pkwy
FINISH Frank Ogawa Plaza
• Runners will take BART to W. Oakland (pass to be provided)

FOUR-PERSON TEAM RELAY

START LINE AT 14TH STREET AND BROADWAY

RACE START 7:30 AM

The Four-Person Team Relay consists of four-person teams with each runner assigned a portion of the marathon course to run. Each team member will run a different leg of the route varying in length from 6 to 7.5 miles. Participants in the team relay will receive a Greenlayer performance shirt with their registration.

THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF CORPORATE PARTNERS, PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED TO THE TOP FINISHERS IN ALL CATEGORIES OF THE RELAY INCLUDING RESTAURANT GIFT CERTIFICATES AND RUNNING SHOES & APPAREL.

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RESTAURANT PAGE

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[illegible]

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Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream
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benjerrys.com

Cocina Poblana
510-451-4780
cocinapoblana.com

Hahn's Hibachi
510-628-0718
hahnshibachi.com

Heinold's First and Last Chance
510-839-6761
heinoldsfirstandlastchance.com

Il Pescatore
510-465-2188
ilpescatoreristorante.com

Kincaid's Bayhouse
510-835-8600
kincaids.com

Miss Pearl's Jam House
510-444-7171
misspearlsjamhouse.com

Scott's Seafood
510-444-3456
scottsseafood.com

Subway Sandwiches
510-663-3030
subway.com

Yoshi's
510-238-9200
yoshis.com

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Beverages and More
510-208-5126
bevmo.com

California Canoe and Kayak
510-893-7833
calkayak.com

Celebrations on the Bay
510-499-4229
celebrationsonthebay.com

Edible Arrangements
510-836-0897
ediblearrangements.com

Regal Cinemas
510-433-1320
regmovies.com

The Potomac
510-627-1215
usspotomac.org

Bay Area Bicycles
510-808-2311
bayareabikes.com

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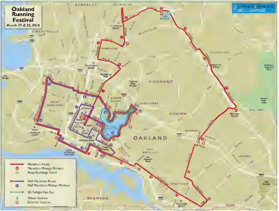
COURSE MAP


Oakland Running Festival
March 27 & 28, 2010
BERKELEY
ROCKRIDGE
EMERYVILLE
TEMESCAL
PIEDMONT
MONTCLAIR
ADAMS POINT
LAKESHORE
WEST OAKLAND
GLENVIEW
DIMOND
OAKLAND
SAN ANTONIO
LAUREL
FRUITVALE
ALAMEDA
CHINATOWN
JACK LONDON SQUARE
Lake Temescal
Lake Merritt
City Hall
Start
Finish
Rockridge BART
MacArthur BART
West Oakland BART
Fruitvale BART
Mountain View Cemetery
Mormon Temple
Laney College
Mills College
Marathon Route
Marathon Mileage Markers
Relay Exchange Points
Half Marathon Route
Half Marathon Mileage Markers
5K Twilight Fun Run
Water Stations
First Aid Stations

City Hall

Fox Theatre

Lake Merritt

Mandela Parkway

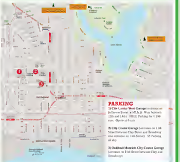
STREET BY STREET

2010 OAKLAND MARATHON COURSE STREET BY STREET

Start: Outside Frank Ogawa Plaza at Broadway and 14th
- Slight right to stay on Broadway
  Slight right at Piedmont Ave
- Turn left at 41st St
- Turn right at Telegraph Ave
- Turn right at 51st St
- Turn left at Broadway
- Sharp left at College Ave
- Turn around at Claremont Ave
- Turn left at Keith Ave
- Turn left at Broadway
- Slight right to stay on Broadway
- Run Through Lake Temescal Park
- Turn left out of Park onto Broadway Terrace
- Slight left to stay on Broadway Terrace
- Continue on Duncan Way
  Continue on Fernwood Dr
  Turn right at Mountain Blvd
- Slight right to stay on Mountain Blvd
- Slight left to stay on Mountain Blvd
- Turn right to stay on Mountain Blvd
  Turn right at Joaquin Miller Rd/Lincoln Ave
- Continue to follow Lincoln Ave
- Slight left at Champion Ave
- Turn right at Nicol
- Turn left at Fruitvale
- Turn left at Foothill
- Turn right at High St
- Turn right at CA-185/International Blvd
- Continue to follow International Blvd
- Turn left at 14th Ave
- Turn right at E 8th St.
- Continue on 7th St
- Turn right at Fallon
- Turn left at 8th St
- Turn left at Jackson St
- Turn right at 2nd St
- Turn right at Brush St
- Turn left at 4th St
- Turn right at Market
- Turn left at 7th St
- Turn right at Mandela Pkwy
- Turn right at 32nd Street
- Turn right at Hannah Ave.
  Turn left at 28th St.
- Cross San Pablo Ave.
- Turn left at 28th St
- Turn right at West St
- Turn left at 27th St
- Turn left at Grand Ave
- Turn right at Bellevue Ave
- Slight right at Bellevue Ave
- Turn left at Perkins St
  Turn right at Grand Ave
- Slight left to stay on Grand Ave
- Turn right at Lake Park Ave
- Turn right at Lakeshore Ave
- Slight right to stay on Lakeshore Ave
- Slight right at 14th St
- Slight right at Lakeside Dr
- Slight left at 19th St
- Turn left at Telegraph Ave
- Slight right to stay on Telegraph
- Finish at Frank Ogawa Plaza

HALF-MARATHON STREET BY STREET

- Start at Frank Ogawa Plaza (14th and Broadway)
- Turn left at W Grand Ave
- Turn left at Martin Luther King Jr Way
- Slight left at San Pablo Ave
- Slight right at Martin Luther King Jr Way
- Turn left at 9th St
- Turn left at Harrison St
- Turn right at 14th St
- Turn right at Madison St
- Turn left at 10th St
- Turn right at 5th Ave
- Turn right at E 8th St (Merge with full course)
- Continue on 7th St
- Turn right at Fallon
- Turn left at 8th St
- Turn left at Jackson St
  Turn right at 2nd St
  Turn right at Brush
- Turn left at 4th St.
- Turn right at Market St
- Turn left at 7th St
- Turn right at Mandela Pkwy
- Slight left to stay on Mandela Pkwy
- Turn right at 32nd St
- Turn right at Hannah
- Turn left onto 28th
- Turn right at San Pablo Ave
- Turn left at 28th St
- Turn right at West St.
- Turn left at 27th St.
- Slight right at Bay Place
- Turn left at Grand Ave
- Slight right at Bellevue Ave
- Turn left at Perkins St.
- Turn right at Grand Ave
- Slight left to stay on Grand Ave
- Turn right at Lake Park Ave
  Turn right at Lakeshore Ave
- Slight right to stay on Lakeshore Ave
- Slight left to stay on Lakeshore Ave
- Slight right to stay on Lakeshore Ave
- Slight right at 14th St
- Slight right at Lakeside Dr
- Curve left to stay on Lakeside Dr
- Slight left at 19th St
- Turn left at Telegraph Ave
- Finish at Frank Ogawa Plaza



PARKING

1) City Center West Garage (entrance on Jefferson Street & MLK Jr. Way between 12th and 14th) - FREE Parking for 1,100 cars. Opens at 6 a.m.

2) City Center Garage (entrance on 11th Street between Clay Street and Broadway; also entrance on 14th Street) - $5 Parking all day

3) Oakland Marriott City Center Garage (entrance on 11th Street between Clay and Broadway)

There is also street parking.

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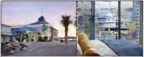

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WHERE TO STAY

With 484 deluxe guest rooms and over 25,000 square feet of flexible function space, plus another 64,000 square feet of exhibition and meeting space at the adjoining Oakland Convention Center, the **OAKLAND MARRIOTT CITY CENTER** can accommodate any size gathering. The Oakland Marriott's state-of-the-art meeting facilities and uncompromising commitment to service and value will transform any occasion into a special event. Our staff is knowledgeable and professional and has the unique ability to anticipate the needs of our guests. From coordinating meeting logistics and memorable tours for spouses to arranging modest coffeebreaks, exciting banquets or themed parties, our sales and catering managers are determined to maximize your comfort and performance.

The Oakland Marriott City Center is just steps from the start of the Oakland Running Festival.

HOMEWOOD SUITES BY HILTON – OAKLAND WATERFRONT A waterfront hotel near historic Jack London Square featuring complimentary "Suite Start" breakfast daily, complimentary HS Internet, exercise facility, outdoor pool and BBQ grills. Enjoy all the comforts of home in a Studio Suite with a fully equipped kitchen, full size refrigerator and coffeemaker, microwave & more. 60% of the rooms have waterfront views.

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The Waterfront Hotel is just blocks away from the start of the Oakland Running Festival.

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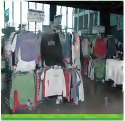
HEALTH & FITNESS EXPO



OAKLAND MARRIOTT CITY CENTER
SAT. MARCH 27 - 9 AM TO 6 PM

The expo is held in the Oakland Marriott City Center in the Exhibit Hall East. The vendors and patrons will find a spacious and enjoyable expo with fun for all.

Find great prices on shoes, apparel, nutritional supplements and active gear in addition to exhibits and other information on today's latest technologies, heath care products and programs. The Expo is open to the public -you don't have to be a participant to browse and shop.

The Expo also serves as headquarters for PACKET and CHIP PICK UP as well as race registration. There is NO RACE DAY REGISTRATION or PACKET PICK UP.

INDIVIDUAL RUNNERS MUST PICK UP THEIR OWN PACKETS

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CELEBRATION VILLAGE

EASTSHORE PARK/FRANK OGAWA PLAZA

SAT MARCH 27 - 6 PM TO 9 PM AND SUN MARCH 28 - 9 AM TO 3 PM

The Celebration Village located at the Frank Ogawa Plaza, opens at 9 AM on Sunday and is the place for family and friends to gather and enjoy the festivities that surround the Oakland Running Festival While the runners are finishing their race on Telegraph fans are invited to take part in the fun as well Activities throughout the day include games and events in the Kid s Fun Zone an interactive area, vendors sponsor giveaways along with food and drinks Live music from great local bands will create a festive atmosphere and a great finish to the race

The Connection Zone is where family and friends can greet participants upon completion of the races

Join the festivities in the Celebration Village and show your support of this great Oakland event The Celebration Village is open from 6 PM to 9 PM on Saturday and from 9 AM to 3 PM on Sunday It is FREE and OPEN to the public

Saturday, March 27 (Lakeside Park)
6 00 PM - 9 00 PM

- The Twilight 5K
- Live Music on the Main Stage
- Official Event Merchandise
- Food and drinks available
- 5K Awards Cermony

Sunday March 28 (Frank Ogawa Plaza)
9 00 AM - 3 00 PM

- Kids Fun Zone with interactive games
- Live Music on the Main Stage
- Official Event Merchandise
- Finish Line Home Stretch activities
- Food and drinks available
- Race Awards Ceremonies

Children's

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COURSE LAYOUT

BY LEN GOLDMAN, JIM ECKFORD AND SIMONE ADAIR

The Beginning - Miles 1 to 5

Runners begin their marathon journey in the heart of Oakland, in front of the iconic City Hall building built in 1914. This structure, standing 320 ft. tall, was the first high-rise government building in the U.S. and was also the tallest building West of the Mississippi at the time it was built. Its design is in the classic Beaux-Art style, resembling a "rectangular wedding cake."

At the start, runners travel up Oakland's main boulevard Broadway, once the retail heart of the East Bay, and will be able to see firsthand the urban renaissance taking place in the "Uptown" section (Broadway & 27th) with restaurants, night clubs, and mid rise apartments and condos dotting the landscape. Note the "Paramount Theater" at 20th & Broadway, site of many performances and built in the classic "art deco" style. The first several miles of the course are relatively flat, with minor elevation changes. After two miles, runners make their first turn, a left onto 40th St., a major connector artery and at 40th & Broadway, runners will have a glimpse of the new Kaiser Permanente Hospital complex. At mile 2½ runners make a turn onto one of the legendary streets in Oakland and Berkeley, Telegraph Ave. This part of Oakland is called the "Temescal" area. In recent years it has also seen a revival and is home to many of the up and coming restaurants. Runners will now notice the scenery is a mix of retail establishments, apartment buildings and single family homes, many of which are in the "Craftsman" style, which was popular in the 1930's. As they exit the Temescal area and run on 51st Street, runners will encounter a series of small rolling hills; this will be just a taste of what will come later. Right before mile 4, runners once again turn onto Broadway and after a few blocks make a left onto one of Oakland's premier retail and restaurant neighborhoods, "Rockridge." For the next mile, runners will pass by a variety of retail establishments, including two well known local running stores: *See Jane Run* and Transports.

As runners exit the Rockridge area by turning onto Keith Ave., they will find themselves running parallel to the BART right of way. This is the Bay Area's rapid transit system, opened in the late 1960's and which has continued to expand its network over the decades. It has served as the model for many other rapid transit systems in the U.S. including Washington D.C. and Atlanta. At this point in the race, runners will start to notice a gain in elevation that continues to increase as once again Broadway is crossed and you are now at the far end of this major roadway. It now becomes a two lane road, no longer busy enough for four lanes of traffic. To one side you will notice a busy freeway, Highway 24, and to the other side off in the distance, large homes sitting on lots with impressive views. This area is very close to the center of the devastating Oakland Hills fire of 1991 that destroyed over 3,000 homes. Most of the houses have been replaced, with even bigger and fancier buildings, making this one of Oakland's nicest residential areas. As you continue to run uphill, you pass the entrance to Temescal Regional Park, one of the many parks in the East Bay Regional Park District. Notice the lake and the beach area, making this park very popular in the Summer months. At the end of the park, you make a right turn and are now running on a bike path that will take you from one end of the park to the other, about ½ mile in length.

The Hill – Miles 6 to 11

As you come out of Temescal Park and pass under the Highway 13 freeway, you will be on a level section as you pass the 7 mile marker on Duncan Way. You will be running in a southeasterly direction now until you reach the course's highest point. This is a pleasant neighborhood of single houses with trees in their yards. The gradient starts to trend uphill again, but more than half of the climbing is behind you now.

You will take a hitch to the right on Fernwood. The trees are getting larger here, with some redwoods and other tall trees shading the road. Just for a change, there's a 50-yard downhill before you turn out onto the ominously named Mountain Boulevard. This road offers some gentle upward gradients, but will seem relentless after about a mile. The pattern of climbing should now be well established. You should be breathing easily and able to talk a little with your fellow racers. Leave the more intense running for the later stages of the race. There's a crest just after the 8 mile marker near Montclair Elementary School that means no more climbing for a half mile. You will pass through Montclair village on a down grade (Starbucks, anyone?) before Mountain becomes a divided highway on the other side. This will run almost level for a quarter mile before it reverts to being a narrow single road again, heads uphill and takes a hitch to the right. The subsequent downhill is rendered less fun by the sight of an uphill ahead. This is the sting in the tail of this ascent, since it's about the steepest part of the climb. But it's quite short and it's the summit.

At the top, you will turn right and cross a bridge over the freeway to head in a southwest direction toward the bay. This is where the big descent starts. Weather permitting, there is an expansive view ahead across Oakland to the Bay. The Mormon Temple is on the left with its fountains and palm trees, and next door is the Greek Orthodox cathedral with its green dome. However you might have little time for sightseeing whilst you are getting down the hill in a controlled fashion. The objective is to reach the bottom of the steep part without being winded and without beating up your legs. Keep your stride short to minimize the impact of each footfall, stay upright and try to relax your upper body. This part is paved in concrete and lasts for a little over half a mile. Then the gradient eases, the pavement becomes asphalt and you enter a residential neighborhood. Different runners have very different downhill styles, but many find they can run faster once the gradient eases and they are not having to fight it. Remember that you need to keep yourself fresh and whole for the second half. It's worth sacrificing a few seconds here to keep your legs in good shape.

Near the bottom of the downhill section, at mile 11, you enter the Dimond District, a neighborhood centered on the intersection of MacArthur Boulevard and Fruitvale Avenue and a cluster of various retail establishments. It is a multicultural neighborhood where the hills meet the flatlands and is a unique blending of cultures and social classes.

Oakland's Melting Pot - Miles 12 to 16

The good news is that the hills are now behind you and it is relatively flat from here on to the finish, although fatigue may amplify any smaller gradients you encounter. At this point as you descend Fruitvale Avenue, into the flatlands, you will discover the district once known as Oakland's second downtown. One hundred years ago, Fruitvale was a tourist destination and lived up to its name with orchards, gardens and even an ostrich farm. Following the 1906 earthquake, the onslaught of refugees from San Francisco caused a population boom. Over the years, this area has undergone many changes, reflecting the ebb and flow of different ethnic groups who have made it their home. Today Fruitvale is a less well heeled but quite a picturesque neighborhood with a mixture of houses, apartment buildings, churches and retail businesses.

This vibrant district is a cosmopolitan melting pot reflecting the diversity of a great American city. In fact, according to the 2000 Census, Oakland is the second most ethnically diverse city in the United States, with many languages spoken.
A mix of historic Victorians and converted warehouses, this area is home to a vibrant artist scene. Nearby lies Jingletown and the famous Mosaic Art Institute. It is named after the Portuguese mill workers who would jingle their week's wages after being paid. This neighborhood now hosts two annual art walks highlighting the many artists who call Fruitvale home.

COURSE LAYOUT

As you make a right onto International Boulevard at mile 13.5, you will get a taste of the rich Hispanic culture of this neighborhood, which hosts an annual Cinco de Mayo parade and a Dia De Los Muertos festival. This land was once home to the Huchiun and Jalquin tribes of Ohlone Indians. At mile 14, you run close by the Fruitvale BART station around which a transit village has been developed recently. The "Fruitvale Village" has become a model of transit oriented development, showcasing a mixture of retail and housing integrated with public transit.

Miles 14-16 continue without much mention and off to your left shoulder you will catch glimpses of the Oakland Estuary and San Francisco Bay. You are now running through an area that is home to many different ethnicities, including the Hmong community. These mountain people from the hills of Southeast Asia fled refugee camps following the Vietnam War and made their home in Oakland adding to the rich tapestry of our city. You will also see the major Oakland train tracks that serve the Port of Oakland. These tracks will lead you past Laney College, the flagship campus of the Peralta Community College. This campus is set on 60 sprawling urban acres and serves over 10,000 students a year.

Oakland's Maritime Center and West Oakland – Miles 17 to 21

At mile 17 you will be heading toward the water's edge and approaching Jack London Square, a popular tourist attraction on Oakland's waterfront. Named after the author Jack London and owned by the Port of Oakland, it is the home of stores, restaurants, hotels, an Amtrak station, a ferry dock, the historic Heinold's First and Last Chance Saloon, and the (re-located) cabin Jack London lived in while in the Klondike. Much of this area was formerly an industrial neighborhood which has undergone significant rehabilitation in the last decade including loft conversions and new construction of condos and apartments. You may want to check out the night life and restaurants here, and if you are a jazz aficionado, "Yoshi's" is the place to go. As you exit Jack London Square heading west, the area takes on a definite industrial/warehouse look and feel. This is thanks in part to the nearby Port of Oakland facility which was the first major port on the Pacific Coast to build terminals for container ships. It is now the fourth busiest container port in the United States and continues to expand. Notice the giant cranes to your left. These behemoths were shipped in several pieces from China a few years back, and the ships carrying the cranes narrowly had enough clearance to make it under the Golden Gate and Bay Bridges. At mile 18, runners make a right onto Market Street and enter West Oakland. Once again you pass a BART station with Mandela Transit Village, a mixed retail and residential development bordering the West Oakland BART station. This was one of the earliest neighborhoods in Oakland to be settled and in 1869 West Oakland became the terminus of the transcontinental railroad. Many of the homes in this area date back to the mid 1800's and were built in the Victorian style, giving it its quaint look. It should be noted that African Americans have historically played an important role in Oakland and especially West Oakland. In the early 1900's because of the importance of railroads, many porters lived here and the headquarters of their union, the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, was located in this neighborhood. Then in the 1930s, Marcus Garvey's Universal Negro Improvement Association had its West Coast headquarters at 8th and Chester Streets. During the 1960's, during the social turmoil of the time, the "Black Panthers" originated in this area. After years of decline, this neighborhood too has started to experience renewal as new residential developments have sprung up and many of the Victorian homes have been remodeled to their former glory.

As you run along the Mandela Parkway (mile 19), some may recall that this was the site of the Cypress Freeway collapse, an elevated, double deck freeway that collapsed onto itself during the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. Several people were killed despite heroic rescue efforts by West Oakland residents. The freeway was replaced by Mandela Parkway, a wide thoroughfare with a pedestrian path and greenway in its median, including a park commemorating the 1989 earthquake. It's lined with condominiums and new and established businesses. At mile 20, you turn back to the South (28th Street) and have passed the "wall" in the marathon, hopefully successfully. The terrain continues to be flat for the couple of miles, with no changes in elevation. This area, like many other parts of Oakland, is slowly undergoing redevelopment from former industrial uses to live-work and other residential forms.

Lake Merritt to the Finish – Miles 22 to 26.2

As you pass the 21 mile mark, you cross back over Broadway at 27th St., very near where your marathon journey first began. You are now heading for the "jewel" of Oakland, Lake Merritt. Hopefully its sight will lift you to the finish these last couple of miles. Lake Merritt was the first official wildlife refuge in the United States designated in 1870. It houses a large bird sanctuary and is famous for its geese. In fact, geese are the mascot for the local running club, Lake Merritt Joggers and Striders. The Lake is a popular venue for runners and walkers, and its sidewalk and paths are filled from dawn to dusk with those who enjoy its tranquil setting. For the Oakland Running Festival's Twilight 5K, running around the Lake will be a relaxing pre-race exercise. As runners round the Lake for the 5K, they can watch the sun set, with its image doubled in the sparkling water. Then twinkling lights will begin to appear that wrap around the entire lake like a jeweled necklace, the "Necklace of Lights." In recent years, Lake Merritt has been the focus of a beautification effort thanks to a bond measure passed by the voters of Oakland in 2002. A multi-purpose path has been built next to the Lake, the sidewalk re-built and widened on the Lakeshore Ave. side, and the Old Boathouse is now the site of the "Lake Chalet" restaurant. In addition, on the northeast tip of the Lake an elaborate Mission Revival pergola was rehabilitated and restored.

Runners enter Lakeside Park at Bellevue, mile 22, and pass by Children's Fairyland, a favorite for toddlers and kids since the 1950's. Along this part of the route, you will pass a number of high rise apartment and condo buildings, many built in the "Art Deco" style which recall a more flamboyant era. The one architectural exception is on the corner of Bellevue and Perkins. It stands in stark contrast to its neighbors and its sleek, modern lines seem somehow out of place. As runners round the Lake, mile 23 is passed and as you run on Lakeshore Ave. for the next mile, it will be a study in contrasts. On one side is the majestic Lake, with no buildings to mar its beauty, while on the other side of the street stands row after row of mid-rise apartment buildings. Anchoring these structures at 1200 Lakeshore Ave. is a 25 story skyscraper and one of Oakland's most prestigious luxury apartment complexes. This marks mile 24 in the race and runners now make the turn onto 12th Street and are heading "home," just 2 miles to go now. Directly in front of the runners stands the 12 story Alameda County Courthouse, an imposing Depression era built structure and the scene of many famous trials over the decades. As you pass by the Courthouse and turn onto Lakeside Dr., the runners now find themselves running next to the Lake again and first pass by on the right the ornate "Camron-Stanford House," built in 1876 and next to it the recently renovated Lake Chalet restaurant. To your left side is the monolithic looking Scottish Rite Temple, built in 1927. Mile 25 is easily identified by the 20 story Essex luxury high-rise apartment building where runners make a left turn onto 19th St. and the finish line is almost in sight. The final mile is a pleasant area, with mid-rise, mixed-use buildings along the way. At 19th & Harrison, you pass by Snow Park, a patch of green amidst the commercial and residential buildings. Once again you cross Broadway and less than a ½ mile to go, with the final turn to the finish at Telegraph and you're done, back where the 26.2 mile run started. Congratulations, wear your finisher's medal with pride and enjoy the hospitality of Celebration Village and bask in the glow of what you have accomplished.

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AQUARIUM AGE

OUT OF THE HIBERNATION CAVE

For the week of March 17-23, 2010

By Raffee Finn

This week carries a curious dual signature. Externally, daily life bustles as Mars Direct finally provides traction for plans and projects. Yet internally, powerful unconscious forces, personal as well as collective, exert a strong pull toward introspection. And while prevailing opinion tends to view external and internal modes of existence as oppositional, what's curious about this week is how clearly our internal and external worlds can be seen as complementary. Moving within and without requires skill — you have to be able to straddle two perspectives simultaneously. But the result is always worthwhile, because aligning these two realms strengthens the unity of mind and body as well as head and heart.

We just finished the first full week of Mars Direct, and although we are still in the beginning phase, Mars' forward motion is deeply motivational. Mars is all about muscles and movement, which is why you or someone you love could suddenly crave activity. Whether that means dusting off the bike, skates, swim goggles, or running shoes, Mars can put you in the mood to "just do it." This is the perfect time of year to put bodies in motion, and if for some reason physical motion isn't possible, move your mind. Stagnation is simply not an option. Not this week. The Sun enters Aries on March 20, the Vernal Equinox, and in the Northern Hemisphere that means it's spring and we are out of the hibernation cave and into life. A Sun/Mars trine amplifies this seasonal emergence — Sun in Aries, and Mars in Leo — a fiery combination that is certain to spark creative fires. Allow this passionate energy to ignite your enthusiasm for life. The winter doldrums are done. Yes, Saturn opposes the Sun in Aries, but that's not enough to dampen a spring spirit.

A Sun/Uranus conjunction in Pisces, in combination with Jupiter (also Pisces, but not part of the conjunction), provides the internal pull of the week. Pisces, highly sensitive and susceptible to suggestion, tends to live in the imaginal realms (which is probably why some people assume that every Pisces is psychic). When Uranus and the Sun, both vital, active, and creative forces, share the same space, they stimulate nervous systems. And even though this conjunction won't last for long — not even for the entire week — it lasts long enough to provide inspiration and vision about the coming year. You may not be able to see the entire picture, but the fire created by the Sun/Mars trine will generate enough light for glimpses. Use these visions to contemplate what it is you want to create during the coming growing season. Don't be afraid to dream big — Jupiter is also in Pisces, and by the end of April, as Jupiter begins its conjunction with Uranus, the world is going to open wide with possibilities.

As I often express, we can only create what we can envision. That is the thread that unites the internal and external dimensions of life. What we create isn't always an exact replication of what we've imagined, but the more practice we have of aligning body, mind, heart, and soul, the closer we get to co-creating a world that is congruent with our best intentions.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon sign, read that, too.

ARIES Refuse to engage in anything petty, no matter how tempting it may be to get involved. There's no need to waste one moment on trivial pursuits, and every reason to stay focused and clear about what's important.

TAURUS While it feels as if your center is destabilizing, you're actually in the midst of a significant transition from one level of understanding to another. Give yourself time to adjust to the new view.

GEMINI Be prepared for strident, even harsh, words, but also expect these interactions to clarify your position. It may be uncomfortable, but it's also productive.

CANCER You're in the midst of real opportunities to create greater financial health, so rather than fret about how you're going to handle it all, roll up your sleeves and get to work.

LEO Consider your strategy carefully, and before you take the next step, gather as much information as possible. Structure your decision wisely, and you'll be pleased with the results.

VIRGO Your week is about paying painstaking attention to detail, even if you don't want to. Apply your innate ability to analyze little bits of data, and your thoroughness will pay off.

LIBRA Figure out what it is you want, as well as need, from your relationships — all of them, including your relationship with yourself — and then do what it takes to implement the new regimen.

SCORPIO The only thing holding you back is your inclination to brood over perfection. Remember, there is no such thing as perfection in the material world. Let go and surrender to the process.

SAGITTARIUS I'm still suggesting that your imagination is more powerful than you realize. Hook it up to your focused intention and see what happens. You might be amazed at the results.

CAPRICORN You're in an intense phase of personal transformation, and although some of what's occurring is discombobulating, some of the insight you're gaining is priceless. Try to appreciate this time for its spiritual value.

AQUARIUS Read Libra, above, and add this: Occasionally it's appropriate to take a strong stand for yourself in order to redefine your role in a partnership, whether personal or professional.

PISCES It's all about attaining equilibrium and finding a way to roll with internal or external shifts. I'm not suggesting you postpone major decisions; I'm simply advising you to be ready for necessary adjustments. ●

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For More Info

Raffee Finn specializes in Transformational Astrology. For readings, call 1-888-937-9284, write P.O. Box 343, New York, NY 10025, visit AquariumAge.com, or e-mail Raffee@AquariumAge.com. Copyright © 2009 by Raffee Finn.

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CÉSAR LATINO HITS AND MISSES

Piedmont Avenue location of popular East Bay restaurant moves from Spain to Latin America, with mixed results

By Matthew Stafford

For the past dozen years, César has been one of the shining attractions of Berkeley's Gourmet Ghetto. The sleek little bar-restaurant became the Bay Area's premier destination for authentic Spanish tapas when it opened in 1998 right next door to Chez Panisse. Chef Maggie Pond, a Panisse alumnus, parlayed the traditional flavors of Barcelona and San Sebastian, an impressive selection of wines and spirits, and that upscale Upper Shattuck atmo into an immediate critical and commercial success that endures to this day. A second operation opened on Oakland's Piedmont Avenue in 2006 and quickly duplicated the mother ship's culinary achievements. Yet just last month, the Piedmont location overhauled its menu to showcase the spicy, robust flavors of Latin America, a different kettle of pozole indeed from the Iberian Peninsula's earthy, soulful tastes and textures. While the original César continues to impress with its signature Spanish sips and nibbles, its sister operation has become a perfectly adequate pan-Latin hangout with a few exceptional dishes sprinkled among a well-prepared, if routine, roster of fare.

César Latino is located along a bustling stretch of Piedmont Avenue where well-togged locals sip espresso, stroll from boutique to gallery, and chow down at Dopo, Bay Wolf, Commis, and other neighborhood hotspots. Happily, an expansive front patio lets diners take in the passing parade. Floor-to-ceiling windows direct plenty of sunlight into the barnlike interior, a high-ceilinged expanse of rough-plank communal tables, a striking bar, and walls in shades of chili pepper and burnt mustard. Another patio out back serves as a pleasant urban oasis.

Assorted platters of tacos and empanadas are the restaurant's best snacking options. The smallish tacos come five to a platter and overflow with top-quality ingredients. The *ropa vieja* was a lusty handful of spicy shredded beef, cilantro, and onion; the fried shrimp combined crunchy little prawns with a peppery mayonnaise; the outstanding *carnitas* was a rich, luscious tumble of pulled pork and a brightly flavored salsa verde. (The poblano-tomato and chorizo-chipotle varieties, on the other hand, were surprisingly bland.) The soft, warm empanadas came in four varieties: a wonderfully earthy mushroom-requeson (white cheese), an unassuming beef-cilantro-raisin, a light, lovely shrimp-corn-chili combo; and our favorite, a spicy *mashup* of pigment, cinnamon, and orange. Another small plate, tuna-salad tostadas, featured olive oil-poached tuna, jalapeños, tomatoes, and onion served on crunchy little fried tortillas — pleasant but not especially memorable.

The best *plato grande* (large plate) was the *pollo asado*: chicken marinated in herbs and garlic and roasted to order. Moist, smoky, and fragrant, it was a pleasure to attack with fingers, teeth, and napkins. (It's available by the whole or half chicken and takes 25 minutes to prepare, so be patient.) Pozole is one of the great examples of Mexican soul food, a fortifying stew rich in flavor and tradition, but despite all its pork, hominy, tomatillos, and green chilies, the house rendition was unaccountably tepid and bland (the pork was nice and creamy, though). Ditto the gigantic Colombian-style tamale: a combination of too much tasteless masa and not enough chicken, pork, bacon, and garbanzos. The Cuban sandwich was another disappointment: Served on a crunchy-crusted roll instead of the traditional soft bread and not, as far as we could determine, pressed, it had none of the hot, gooey, greasy charm of its namesake, and the filling (pork belly, mortadella, Swiss cheese, ham) was unexciting, to boot. A side dish of fried plantains nearly made up for it: Soft, almost creamy in texture and delicate in flavor, they were the best we'd ever had.

The desserts are the best things on the menu. The *pastel de tres leches* (three-milk cake) was moist and lush, its consistency all about heavy cream and condensed and evaporated milk, bits of ripe strawberry and mango adding bright, colorful accents to the custard-like cake. The "impossible" challenge of the *pastel imposible* was to combine flan and chocolate cake into one delectable confection, but the kitchen succeeded, serving up a profoundly rich, dark *pastel chocolate* with a thick layer of flan on top as a sort of luscious ultra-creamy frosting: yum. The pineapple upside-down cornmeal cake was a disappointment — dry, bland, and short on sweet and juicy pineapple — but the César sundae was absolutely irresistible: rich, spicy cinnamon-chocolate ice cream, thick hot fudge, and crunchy almonds, and two soft, warm cinnamon-sprinkled churros projecting outwards.

Vegetarians can assemble a sufficiently hearty meal at César Latino. Small plates include made-to-order guacamole, rice with plantains and a fried egg, fried potatoes with aioli, and three salads (jicama-cucumber, beet-tangerine, and hearts of romaine with radish, cucumber, and queso fresco). Among the *platos grandes* are spinach-stuffed chiles rellenos with rice and corn, or opt for the *poblano*-tomato taco, the mushroom empanada, or a sandwich of avocado, watermelon radish, red onion, and chipotle *crema fresca*. Sides of cinnamon black beans, green rice, chips and salsa, and those dreamy fried plantains are also on the menu.

The wide-ranging wine list features an interesting and affordable selection of spice-friendly vintages from Argentina, Spain, New Zealand, Italy, Wine Country, and points south. (Try the Gloria Ferrer merlot with the *pollo asado*.) The beer offerings are equally impressive, ranging from Belize's Belikin lager and Honduras's Salva Vida to Belgium's Lindemans Peche lambic and Japan's Hitachino red rice ale. Nonalcoholic options include house-made lemon mint soda, tamarind and hibiscus *aguas frescas*, and elderflower and sour-cherry fruit seltzers. But the bar is the restaurant's central motif, an inviting three-sided cynosure in polished wood, mosaic blue tile, and a vertiginous selection of tequilas, mescal, cachaças, and other friendly spirits. Our favorite cocktail was the Bebo Brazil, a creamy tropical fantasia of *cachaça*, orange juice, ginger syrup, and coconut.

Ambitious menu notwithstanding, César Latino is above all an inviting place to sip one of those carefully crafted cocktails out on the front patio with a bunch of friends, a platter of tacos at hand, the evening and its possibilities just ahead. ●

César Latino
4039 Piedmont Ave., Oakland
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No reservations.

Sample Menu

Tuna Tostadas	$8.75
Pollo Asado	$16/$31
Taco Platter	$11
Fried Plantains	$4
Flan and Chocolate Cake	$6
Bebo Brazil Cocktail	$10

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

Stuf's Waffle Café

2754 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, 510-548-0118. Order your own custom waffle — or "woofle," as they're called here — Cold Stone Creamery-style, by choosing from among 27 sweet and savory toppings and mix-ins that range from pecans to coffee beans to cheesecake to Fruity Pebbles to hummus to pesto to garlic to Armenian sujuk sausage. "Sandwaffles" such as the BLT Stuf and spinach-hummus-avocado-sausage Haas are bright, fresh, and tasty made-to-order options for the waffle-averse, as are salads, house-made Middle Eastern pastries, and less-common cafe beverages including cardamom-spiked Turkish coffee, chicory-spiked café au lait, and cane sugar-sweetened Mexican Cokes. But it's with owner Hoda Cox's predesigned woofles (such as the macaroon pecan Cinny Bun and the feta-za'atar Arabian Nights) and custom mix-ins — all baked to order and the periodically fluffy — that the dream really begins. Every combination unleashes its own chain of associations. $

Hibiscus

1745 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-444-2626. Chef Sarah Kirnon's neosoul Caribe take on the rich, spicy flavors of her native Barbados stars at this moody, handsome downtown hotspot. Spicy Dungeness crab and grits, jerk Cornish game hen, stewed oxtail, and taro leaf and fried chicken with Brussels sprouts and smoked bacon are among the menu's standouts; the leaden, heavy pepperpot is easily avoided. Inventive cocktail list. $$$

Encuentro

202 2nd St., Oakland, 510-832-9463. The creators of this cozy vegetarian wine bar in Oakland's warehouse district include Eric Tucker, executive chef at acclaimed San Francisco vegetarian restaurant Millennium, and Lacey Sher, former owner of New Jersey vegan restaurant Down to Earth. Veteran home chef Linda Braz is the third partner. Artful sandwiches, the closest thing to entrées on a dinner-only all-organic menu, include peppered portobello mushrooms on a whole-wheat sourdough roll with caramelized onions, caramelized fennel, smoked hazelnut aioli and vegan "cheese" and super aioli. Other standouts include black-lentil stew, farro salad, and miso-drawn pâté-stuffed dates. The owners considered opening a vegan place, but in the end decided to serve cheese. This is a wine bar, after all, with a wide selection of organics from small, independent producers. $$

Commis

3859 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3902. Star chef James Syhabout's intricate, unusual, and beautifully balanced creations are showcased at his sparsely appointed, white-on-white Piedmont Avenue restaurant. The three-course prix fixe menu that plays locally harvested seasonal ingredients in striking and unique combinations: sweetbreads on a bed of rye berries and elderflower nectar, say, or Fort Bragg lingcod with toasted fennel, white beans, and seaweed broth, or a goat's milk panna cotta draped in beet blood orange sorbet and candied pistachios. The food is more memorable than the overall experience, though, especially at these prices. Wine pairings available for an additional stipend. $$$$

Everest Cafe

1645 Solano Ave., Berkeley, CA, 510-526-4565. The bright, invigorating flavors of Nepal star at this friendly little Solano Avenue hideaway. In addition to delights like momos (steamed dumplings), thukpa (noodle soup), and bhindi ko tarkari (stewed okra and tomato), there are several tantalizing Indian preparations on the menu: the samosa chaat, potato naan, and tender, smoky tandoori chicken are worthwhile. The desserts are avoidable, but the mango lassi is as sweet and creamy as a milkshake. Good selection of Tibetan beers. $$

Flavah Island Cafe

1139 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-4083. Kingston native Dee Edwards cooks authentic Jamaican favorites such as salt fish fritters, curried goat, sautéed salted cod, escovitched fish, and sunny yellow ackee. The latter, Jamaica's national fruit, is related to the longan but looks, feels, and tastes for all the world like scrambled eggs. Edwards makes most of these dishes based on his aunt's and grandmother's recipes. Experiments such as Rasta Pasta — a meatless standout featuring whole-wheat fettuccine in a thick, basil-scented soy-cream sauce, worthy of any fancy restaurant in town — are his own inventions, as is his allspice-rich jerk marinade. Some dishes are classic-nouveau fusions. JamAsian Stir Fry is a vegetable-y, chewy and irresistibly smoky take on the noodles. This and everything else here, including full $2.99 breakfasts featuring enormous berry-topped pancakes, comes in such generous portions at such bargain-basement prices that you almost wish you could pay more, just to be fair. $

R C

Platter) $$

Cha-Am 1543 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-848-9664. (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Cha-Ya 1686 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-981-1213 (Japanese/Sushi/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

The Cheese Board Pizza Collective 1512 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-549-3055. (Bakery/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

Cioccolata di Vino 1801 Shattuck Ave., Suite C, Berkeley 510-883-1292 (Italian/Dessert/Ice Cream/Wine Bar) $$

Gurus 1788 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-704-8804 (Indian) $$

Fatapple's 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley 510-526-2260 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

Flacos Rose Street at Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Gregoire 2109 Cedar St., Berkeley 510-883-1893 (French/Organic/Sustainable/ $-$$

Nature's Express 1823 Solano Ave., Berkeley 510-527-5838. (Vegetarian/Vegan/Raw food) $

Rasoo Taqueria 1581 B Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-540-4811 Delivering $

Top dog 2503 Hearst Ave., Berkeley 510-843-1241 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

BERKELEY-SOUTH

Adagia 2700 Bancroft Way, Berkeley 510-647-2300 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Sunday Berkeley Farmers Market, Berkeley 510-548-3320 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Bhanu & India 2445 Sacramento St., Berkeley 510-848-9564 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Cafe Valparaiso 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-841-5800 (South American) $$

Caribbean Spice 2160 Telegraph Ave., 2nd floor, Berkeley 510-981-8476 (Caribbean) $$

La Shaklak 2575 College Ave., Berkeley 510-704-1117 (Mexican) $

Pafloo 2556 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-883-0167 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

Flacos Derby Street at Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Lanka Lanka House 2448 Sacramento St., Berkeley 510-845-0158 (Indian/Pakistani) $

Paragon Bar & Cafe 41 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley 510-549-8585 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Rick & Ann's Restaurant and Catering 2922 Domingo Ave., Berkeley 510-649-8538 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$

Shen Hua 2914 College Ave., Berkeley 510-883-3177 (Chinese) $-$$

Smokehouse 3115 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 510-845-3640 (American) $

Sweet Blossom Bakehouse 3350 Adeline St., Berkeley 510-665-7381 (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$$

Top dog 2534 Durant Ave., Berkeley 510-843-5967 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Wat Mongkolratanaram 1911 Russell St., Berkeley 510-849-3419 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

BERKELEY WEST & EMERYVILLE

900 Grayson 900 Grayson St., Berkeley 510-704-9900 (California Cuisine) $$

Anchalee 1094-1096 Dwight Way, Berkeley 510-848-1118 (Thai/Burmese) $$

Arizmendi Bakery and Pizzeria 4301 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville 510-547-0550 (Bakery/Pizza/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Bette's Oceanview Diner 1807 Fourth St.,

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Nearly every winery talks about its eco-friendly wine-making and grape-growing practices these days, so it's hard to know which brands are truly green and which are simply co-opting the green message because it sells.

Case in point: The chartreuse label of the **2008 Bogle California Sauvignon Blanc ($8.99)** boasts that the winery has "a high regard for the mindful tending of the soil." Now, this morning I mindfully tended to cleaning my kitchen, but does that necessarily translate to green practices? It does with this producer, at least. A member of the California Sustainable Winegrowing Alliance, Bogle has long used cover crops and drip-system irrigation in its vineyards. The end result is what I found to be a "just-fine" wine: lots of citrus and vanilla on the nose, light and off-dry on the palate, with low acid, nice balance, and a peppery finish. Token Winemaker heaped on the praise, calling it clean, bright, and a "good sipper."

It sure beat the **2004 Bridge/Eco California Chardonnay ($2.99)**, which smelled like rancid oil, dust, and burnt toast and was watery on the palate. This wine was well-stocked and prominently displayed at the Grocery Outlet I visited — a little curious given its past-its-prime vintage. This is a disappointment from a store whose friendly and knowledgeable wine guys are usually a thrifty Wineau's best friend. Of the three green wines we tried this week, only the Bridge/Eco is made with certified organically grown grapes.

My clear favorite in this tasting was the **2008 Fetzer Valley Oaks California Riesling ($7.99)**. But just what does that "earth friendly" descriptor on the label mean? In Fetzer's case, it's definitely not just marketing-speak. A longtime organic grower, the winery has racked up environmental accolades and recently sent representatives on a nationwide "eco-tour" of wine festivals to spread the gospel of green winemaking and grape growing. All of this makes it even more pleasurable to sip this Meyer-lemony, light, and slightly effervescent wine that reminded me of an alcoholic fizz. (That's a compliment.) Token Winemaker praised its "pretty" aroma, but felt that more acid was needed to balance the wine's residual sugar.

Turning to our local oenosphere, there's good news and bad news. First, the bad news: Franklin Square Wine Bar of Oakland has closed its doors — although owner Rick Mitchell notes that Franklin Square's inventory will move across the street to Luka's Tap Room, where Mitchell will continue to offer half-price bottles every Sunday. That's good news, but even better news is that the Restaurant at Wente Vineyards in Livermore is offering all of its wines sold by the bottle for 50 percent off every day for the rest of the month. Visit WenteVineyards.com for details.

— Blair Campbell

For retail availability, visit EastBayExpress.com

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Berkeley, 510-644-3230 (American/Diner/Organic/Sustainable) $$

The Manna Workshop 2[illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-9749 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $

Manzo [illegible] St., Emeryville, 510-547-4725 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Café Cacao 1111 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-6000 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Dessert/Int'l Deli/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$$

Café Fanny 1603 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-5447 (Café/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Café M 1799 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-526-4429 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$

Café Rouge 1782 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-1440 (Catering/Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

Digs Bistro 1453 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 510-548-2322 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Doyle Street Cafe 5815 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-547-9552 (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

Eiko 1722 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2300 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Everett & Jones Barbeque 1955 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, (510) 548-8261 (Barbecue) $$

[illegible] Cafe 2[illegible] San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-8383 (Caribbean) $

Gochi 1630 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-1465 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] and Sweets [illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-1200 (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $

Jimmy Bean's 1290 Sixth St., Berkeley, 510-528-3435 (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Juan's Place 941 Carleton St., Berkeley, 510-845-6904 (Mexican) $-$$

Kabana 1106 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3366 (Indian/Pakistani/Kabab/Halal) $

Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 2033 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1652 (Pizza/Ale/Cafe) $

Let Them Eat Pie Queen 658 40th St., Emeryville, 510-658-5616 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Miyozen 1417 40th St., Emeryville, 510-923-1311 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Priya Indian Cuisine 2072 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-3077 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

[illegible] Market and Deli 598 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-486-8802 (Deli/Seafood) $

Skates on the Bay 100 Seawall Dr., Berkeley, 510-549-1900 (American/Seafood) $$

[illegible] 1[illegible] Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-665-5656 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] 1[illegible] Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-5100 (Mediterranean/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

Townhouse Bar & Grill 5862 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-652-6151 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

CONCORD, MARTINEZ & PLEASANT HILL

Chilo's 4375 Clayton Rd., Concord, 925-680-7760 (Peruvian/South American) $-$$

Chopan Kabob 2608 Monument Blvd., Concord, 925-685-5488 (Afghan/Persian) $

DJ's Bistro 1825 Sutter St., Concord, 925-825-3277 (Eastern European/Russian) $$

E.J. Phair Brewing Company and Alehouse 2151 Salvio St., Suite L, Concord, 925-691-4253 (American/Brewpub) $-$$

Il Morena 2[illegible] Monticello Ave., Pleasant Hill, 925-671-1132 (Italian) $$

Pete's Gyros and Hot Dogs 2[illegible] Taylor Blvd., Pleasant Hill, 925-687-6464 (Greek/Turkish) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 1820 [illegible] Industrial Way, Concord, 925-825-8100 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 2227 Contra Costa Ave., Pleasant Hill, 925-798-2333 (Barbecue/Deli) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 680 Contra Costa Blvd., Pleasant Hill, (925) 682-3151 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

La [illegible] 2301 Willow Pass Rd., Concord, 925-686-9710 (Mexican) $$

Luna [illegible] 2[illegible] Willow Pass Rd., 100-B, Concord, 925-[illegible] (Italian) $$-$$$

[illegible] 2[illegible] [illegible] St., Concord, 925-[illegible] (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Nibblers Eatery & Wine Bar 1922 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill, 925-944-0402 (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

EL CERRITO, RICHMOND & NORTH

[illegible] Burritos 10698 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-525-8599 (Mexican) $

El Tucan 3740 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, 510-222-9897 (Italian/Peruvian/South American) $$

[illegible] City 3288 Pierce St., Richmond, 510-528-8085 (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] Restaurant 3[illegible] Pablo St., Richmond, 510-527-4800 (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$$

The Dead Fish 20050 San Pablo Ave., Crockett, 510-787-3023 (American/Seafood) $$$-$$$$

[illegible] City Cafe 5[illegible] Park Pl., Richmond, 510-[illegible] (American/California Cuisine) $$

Hotel Mac 50 Washington Ave., Richmond, 510-233-0576 (American) $$$

[illegible] 3[illegible] San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, 510-223-[illegible] (Central American) $

[illegible] 10544-10546 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-526-1376 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

Kinder's Custom Meats 3[illegible] San Pablo Ave., Suite 1, Hercules, 510-724-2372 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Pho [illegible] 12[illegible] San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-236-1333 (Vietnamese) $-$$

Pizza [illegible] 2[illegible] 23rd St., Richmond, 510-234-8852 (Mexican/Peruvian) $-$$

[illegible] 1598 Fitzgerald Dr., Pinole, 510-223-5620 (Italian) $$

[illegible] Thai 3[illegible] [illegible] St., Richmond, 510-558-8538 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

[illegible] Thai Restaurant 12200 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-232-9542 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Shimizu 1581 Sycamore Ave., Unit B, Hercules, 510-245-1000 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] [illegible] St., Hercules, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $

Taqueria La [illegible] 12345 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-235-2288 (Central American/Mexican/Salvadoran) $

[illegible] 14821 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo, 510-215-7580 (Central American/Restaurant) $

FREMONT, NEWARK & UNION CITY

Cafe [illegible] 46[illegible] Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $$-$$$

[illegible] Cafe 3[illegible] Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-796-3400 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$

[illegible] 33330 Alvarado Niles Rd., Union City, 510-475-0317 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

Al [illegible] Kabob House 37[illegible] Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510 745 8589 (Afghan/Middle Eastern) $-$$

The Deep-Fried [illegible] & [illegible] 4004 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-794-7665 (Burgers/Sandwiches) $

[illegible] Restaurant 3[illegible] Washington Blvd., Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $-$$

[illegible] Custom [illegible] 43[illegible] Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-440-1518 (Belgian/Barbecue/Deli) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue [illegible] Decoto Rd., Union City, (510) 307-8838 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

[illegible] 37[illegible] Decoto Rd., Union City, 510-487-[illegible] (Chinese) $

[illegible]'s 5200 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-792-2000 (California Cuisine/Italian) $$

[illegible] Cafe & [illegible] Pizza 4[illegible] Fremont Blvd., #H, Fremont, 510-[illegible] (Indian/Pakistani/Pizza) $

Woodlands 39203 Cedar Blvd., Newark, 510-494-9777 (Indian/Pakistani) $

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

A [illegible] Cafe 1213 A St., Hayward, 510-581-2558 (Brunch) $$$

[illegible] 20[illegible] Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-276-7355 (Italian) $-$$

Buffalo Bill's Brewery 1082 B St., Hayward, 510-886-9823 (American/Brewpub) $

[illegible] 1785 MacArthur Blvd., San Leandro, 510-895-0009 (Asian Fusion/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Curry [illegible] 2[illegible] Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-581-4800 (Indian/Pakistani) $

Everett & Jones Barbeque 296 A Street, Hayward, 510-581-3222 (Barbecue) $$

[illegible] 25[illegible] Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-783-7133 (Chinese) $$

[illegible] Restaurant and Pub 3[illegible] Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley, 510-[illegible] (Chinese) $

L&L Hawaiian Barbecue 27[illegible] Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-782-8888 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $

La [illegible] 9[illegible] B St., Hayward, 510-538-8067 (Mexican) $$

La [illegible] 7[illegible] [illegible] St., San Leandro, 510-[illegible] (Mexican) $$

[illegible] Garden 2[illegible] Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-670-0727 (Filipino/Southeast Asian) $-$$

Sam's Super Burger 1[illegible] Hesperian Blvd., San Lorenzo, 510-278-8339 (American/Diner) $

The [illegible]'s House 2[illegible] Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-538-[illegible] (Korean) $$

Thai [illegible] 1[illegible] E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$

Val's Burgers 2[illegible] Kelly St., Hayward, 510-886-7257 (American/Diner) $

[illegible] Restaurant 2[illegible] [illegible] St., San Leandro, 510-[illegible] (Vietnamese) $$

[illegible] 22[illegible] [illegible] Blvd., Hayward, 510-886-[illegible] (Chinese/Korean) $

LAMORINDA

Bo's Barbecue 3422 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-7133 (Barbecue/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Casa Orinda 20 Bryant Way, Orinda, 925-254-2981 (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

Chow Lafayette 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925-962-2469 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] Cafe 3[illegible] Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-[illegible] (Mexican) $-$$

La Finestra Ristorante 100 Lafayette Circle, Suite 101, Lafayette, 925-284-5282 (Italian) $$-$$$

[illegible] 1 Orinda Way, Orinda, 925-253-[illegible] (Chinese) $

[illegible] 3[illegible] Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-7[illegible] (Chinese) $$-$$$

[illegible] Lafayette 3534 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-284-4422 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$

[illegible] 3[illegible] Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-8700 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] Cafe 1112 Moraga St., Moraga, 925-376-5137 (American) $-$$

[illegible] 3[illegible] Plaza Way, Lafayette, 925-284-1330 (Italian/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

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B 499 9th St., Oakland, 510-251-8770 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

[illegible] [illegible] 14th St., Oakland, 510-255-2753 (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] Broadway, Oakland, 510-[illegible] (Cantonese/Chinese/Seafood/Southeast Asian/Veg-

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Dish [illegible] 326 12th St., Oakland, 510-893-[illegible] (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

Dorisanne 55 [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-444-1333 (California Cuisine/Caribbean/Central American/Nuevo Latino/Tacos/Small Plates) $$$

Cuisine of India 945 Clay St., Oakland, 510-834-7584 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$

House Sugar Cuisine 2534 Mandela Parkway, Oakland, 510-839-7685, (Southern/Soul Food) $$

Uncle Edwards' Bar-B-Que 1515 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-834-8518 (Barbecue/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

La Flavors 1000 Clay St., Oakland, 510-763-8485 (Seafood/Asian/Vietnamese) $$-$$$

Bang Bar 254 Fourth St., Oakland, 510-832-3467 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Burgers/Sandwiches/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$

Cock-A-Doodle Cafe 135 Washington St., Oakland, 510-465-5400 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/Nuevo Latino/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Everett & Jones Barbeque 126 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2350 (Barbecue) $$

Golden Lotus 1301 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-893-0383 (Chinese/Burmese/Asian/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan/Vietnamese) $

Gourmet Cottage Seafood Restaurant 701 Webster St., Oakland, 510-832-3863, (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

Gum Kee 388 Ninth St., Oakland, 510-208-1288 (Chinese) $

Home of Oakland & Cuisine 445 Embarcadero, Oakland, 510-838-4446, (American/Southern/Soul Food) $

Huynh 38 15th St., Oakland, 510-832-5238 (Vietnamese) $$

Ital Calabash 3405 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-836-4825 (Caribbean/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Jessie's Seafood Restaurant and Catering 901 Washington St., Oakland, 510-451-1561 (Cajun/Creole/Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $$

Miss Pearl's Jam House [illegible] Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-7171 (Caribbean) $$$

Nomo Restaurant & Wine Bar 247 Fourth St., Oakland, 510-834-0080 (California Cuisine) $$$

Oak Pizza Bar & Grill 165 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, 510-268-1700 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Oyster Reef 1000 Embarcadero Ave., Oakland, 510-836-2569 (Seafood) $$$

Ozumo Seafood 2251 Broadway Ave., Oakland, (Asian Fusion/Japanese/Sushi/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$$

Pho Hong 124 Webster St., Oakland, 510-839-6175 (Vietnamese) $

Mama Bear 500 15th St., Oakland, 510-445-8416 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Vegan/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

San Francisco Bread Company 5200 Clay St., Oakland, 510-763-3581 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Smoothie) $

Sauce 300 Broadway, Oakland, 510-251-8030 (California Cuisine) $$$

Oak Ning Meat Cuisine 388 8th St., Oakland, 510-836-1819 (Chinese) $

Tay Ho 3445 12th St., Oakland, 510-836-8382 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Tap dog 400 14th St., Suite 10, Oakland, 510-625-[illegible] (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Vo's Restaurant 59 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4400 (Vietnamese) $$

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200 (Japanese/Sushi/Asian/Music Venues) $$$

OAKLAND-EAST

Com Hoang Restaurant 789 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-445-2500 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $

Conchita's Restaurant 3739 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-534-4799 (Mexican) $

Colonge Cuisine 2102 8th Ave., Oakland, 510-238-8216 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $

Los Cocos 1440 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 510-536-3179 (Central American/Salvadoran) $

La Grana Restaurant 3625 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-8500, (Mexican) $

Everett & Jones Barbeque 2676 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, (510) 533-0900 (Barbecue) $$

Full House Cafe 3119 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-2780 (American/Diner) $

La Estrellita Cafe 446 East 12th St., Oakland, 510-465-7188, (American/Mexican/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$

Nieves Cinco de Mayo 3340 #2 E. 12th St., Oakland, 510-533-6296 (Desserts/Ice Cream) $

El Ojo de Agua 3132 E. 12th St., Oakland, (Mexican) $

Old Weang Ping Village 6207 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-430-8771 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

[illegible] 3912 [illegible] Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-8880 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian) $

Pho Hoa Hiep 2211 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-434-9180 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$

Pupuseria Lupita 3340 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-436-3601 (Central American) $

Tacos El Sol Corner of International Blvd. and High St., Oakland, no phone (Mexican) $

Taqueria Campos 3860 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-265-4810 (Mexican) $

Gourmet Durango 3829 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-536-6486, (Superior Mexican) $

Taqueria San Jose 3433 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-5740 (Mexican) $

Taqueria Zamorano 4345 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-9125 (Mexican) $

Tiki Tom's 300 20th Ave., Oakland, 510-533-8230 (Hawaiian) $$

La [illegible] Loca 3411 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-5324 [illegible] (Mexican) $

OAKLAND PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & EAST

[illegible] 4385 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-601-05[illegible] (Italian/Burgers/Sandwiches/Wine Bar) $$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Saturday Grand Lake Farmers' Market, Oakland, (415) 412-0100 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 5362 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-7180 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Bay Wolf Cafe and Restaurant 3853 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6004 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] 4238 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1180 (Italian/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable/Wine Bar) $$$

Blackberry Bistro 4240 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1088 (Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

[illegible] 3911 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-541-5035 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] [illegible] Ave., Oakland, 510-663-0222 (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] 912 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-834-7866 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] 3308 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-451-0518 (California Cuisine) $$$-$$$$

Oakland Fish 3314 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-645-1512 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

[illegible] 4000 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-541-3444 (Tapas) $-$$

La Cucina's Restaurant 4270 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-6222 (Italian/Pizza) $$

Marzano 4214 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-663-2500 (California Cuisine/Organic/Restaurant) $$-$$$

[illegible] 3280 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-625-8854 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Spettro 3355 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-451-7738 (California Cuisine/Pizza) $$

Tropix 3814 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-653-2444 (Caribbean) $$

OAKLAND ROCKRIDGE

À Côté 5478 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6469 (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 5819 College Ave., Oakland, 510-601-0444 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Cactus Taqueria 5642 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-6180 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

Flavors of India 3211 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-654-3441 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Garibaldis 5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4000 (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$

[illegible] 5481 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-4400, (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$$

[illegible] 5301 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2230, (Asian/Pakistani) $$

Lake Anza Wildcat Canyon and Grizzly Peak Blvd., Berkeley (510) 881-PARK, (Parks & Playing Fields/Burgers/Sandwiches/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Deli/Dessert/Ice Cream) $

Nan Yang 6048 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-3298, (Southeast Asian) $$

[illegible] 5655 College Ave., Oakland, 510-547-5356, (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-1001 (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

Soi4 Bangkok Eatery 5421 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-0889 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

[illegible] 5917 College Ave., Oakland, 510-418-0833 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$

Tap dog 5930 Broadway, Oakland, 510-[illegible]-1151 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Uzen 5415 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-7753 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Wood Tavern 6317 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-6607 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 5801 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6385 (Pizza) $-$$

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

Addis Ethiopian Restaurant 6100 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3456, (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Sunday Temescal Farmers' Market, Oakland, (415) 412-6100 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Aunt Mary's Cafe 4640 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-8227 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Bakesale Betty 5098 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1213 (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

[illegible] 49[illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0615 (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$$

[illegible] 5721 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3080 (Southeast Asian) $$

Cafe Colucci 6427 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-7999 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

[illegible] 4301 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-[illegible]-6001, (Korean) $

[illegible] [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-[illegible] (Korean) $$

[illegible] 3109 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2958 (Korean) $$

Koryo Sushi 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-594-0601 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Koryo Wooden Charcoal Barbecue 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-6007 (Korean) $$

La Calaca Loca 5199 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-8225 (Mexican) $

Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 4799 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5350, (Pizza/Art Galleries) $

Mama's Royal Cafe 4012 Broadway, Oakland, 510-547-7600 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $

Marc 49 4915 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-2170 (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $-$$

Pizzaiolo 5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-4888 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $$-$$$

[illegible] 5920 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-658-1584 (Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $

Sahn Maru 4315 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3366, (Korean) $$

[illegible] Pie & Peggy's Authentic Barbecue Cuisine 5865 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakland, 510-541-8343 (Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Tanjia 4905 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-8691, (African/Moroccan/Spanish) $$$

[illegible] 4300 Telegraph Ave., Suite 8, Oakland, 510-652-2900, (Chinese/Korean) $

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R&C

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Bridges 44 Church St., Danville, 925-820-7200 (Asian Fusion/California Contemporary) $$$-$$$$

Cafe Esin 2416 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Suite 140, San Ramon, 925-314-0974 (California Cuisine) $$$

Las Caguamas 2127 First St., Livermore, 925-443-4454 (Mexican) $

[illegible] 7-8 Rose Ave., Pleasanton, 925-462-0130 (French) $$$-$$$$

Kinder's Custom Meats 595 Town & Country Dr., Suite C, Danville, 925-362-8328 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Kinder's Custom Meats 4825 Hopyard Rd., Suite F7, Pleasanton, 925-461-2333 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Lawrence's Walnut Grove Meat Co. 325-B Alamo Plaza, Alamo, 925-838-6685 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Peshawar Indian Fusion 489 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville, 925-362-4900 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

Mudd's Restaurant 10 Boardwalk, San Ramon, 925-837-9387 (California Cuisine) $$$

The Patio 3-50 Moraga Rd., Lafayette, 925-299-6865 (South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

The Peasant & the Pear 267 Hartz Ave, Danville, 925-820-6611 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Smokin' BBQ and Brewery 2268 First St., Livermore, 925-258-0610 (Barbecue/Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $$

Uncle Yu's at the Vineyard 39 S. Livermore Ave., Livermore, 925-449-7000 (Chinese) $$-$$$

Xenia's Bistro 115 Alamo Plaza, Alamo, 925-855-9900 (California Cuisine/Eastern European) $$

Yataka 3499 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville, 925-964-1018 (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 3110 Crow Canyon Pl., Suite D, San Ramon, 925-244-1222 (Pizza) $-$$

WALNUT CREEK

Babushka Russian Deli & Restaurant 1475 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek, 925-210-0779 (Eastern European) $$

Bing Crosby's 1342 Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek, 925-939-2464 (American/Steak House) $$$

Le [illegible] 1666 N Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-937-8000 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Masala of India 1358 N Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-256-7084 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Dragon 2000 1851 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek, 925-287-[illegible] (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] Giant Hamburger 1901 Newell Ave., Walnut Creek, 925-939-4886 (Diner) $

[illegible] 1515 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek, 925-939-4556 (National Cuisine/Cuban/Nuevo Latino) $$

[illegible] 1552 Locust St., Walnut Creek, 925-937-9800 (Vietnamese) $$

[illegible] 1851 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, 925-932-8903 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] Mangia Bene 1218 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek, 925-939-2426 (Italian) $

The Original Hick'ry Pit 1951 South Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-935-7450 (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $$

Rocco's Ristorante & Pizzeria 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek, 925-947-6105 (Italian/Pizza) $-$$

Va de Vi Bistro & Wine Bar 1511 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek, 925-979-0100 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

[illegible] Urban Pizza Club 1566 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek, 925-944-[illegible] (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Bonanza) $$-$$$

FOOD & WINE

CULINARY & WINE

[illegible] Sessions [illegible] on the spot using vintage spirits, liqueurs, and bitters, [illegible] Wed. [illegible] 5 p.m. Continues through [illegible]. [illegible] Island, 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-749-0332, [illegible].com.

[illegible] Chocolate Factory Tour Opportunity to watch chocolatiers in production, followed by a Q&A. Wednesdays, Saturdays, 11:30 a.m. & 2:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Chocolate Factory Store and Chocolate Bar, 6529 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-652-4412, [illegible].com.

East Bay Green Drinks Informal gathering for people interested in sustainability. Topics include green Oakland, [illegible], [illegible], organics, and clean energy. Third Wednesday of every month, 5:30-8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677, LukasOakland.com.

East Bay Vegan Bake Sale Sat., March 20, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. free. Issues, 20 Glen Ave., Oakland, 510-652-5700, www.[illegible]

[illegible] Oatmeal Cookie Day Oatmeal cookies with your order. Thu., March 18. Golden Tea Garden, 22830 Main St., Hayward.

Rainforest Action Network's 25th Anniversary Kick-off Celebration at Lake Chalet Seafood Bar & Grill with a Special Tribute to Jennifer Green Thu., March 18, 7-10:30 p.m. $50. Lake Chalet, 1520 Lakeside Dr., Oakland, 510-208-5253, TheLakeChalet.com.

Sacred Art & Sacred Space and Yoga Mandala Art Auction With food prepared by restaurateur Charlie [illegible] of [illegible], complimentary wine, and an auction featuring [illegible] art and contemporary [illegible] Art. Sun., March 21, 8 p.m. $25. [illegible], 5000 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-4898, [illegible].store

Spring Fling Friday Fondue Wine pairings with cheese and chocolate fondue. Fri., March 19, 5-8 p.m. $8-$12. $15. Periscope Cellars & Gallery, 1410 62nd St., Emeryville, 510-655-7802, PeriscopeCellars.com.

St. Patrick's Day Dining & Banger Menu features brisket of corned beef with horseradish cream sauce, steamed cabbage and boiled potatoes, Irish stew, Guinness Stout, and Irish coffee. With a bagpiper and the Bob Scott Trio. Proceeds benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Wed., March 17, 8-9 p.m. Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto, 1919 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-845-7771, Spengers.com.

Saint Patrick's Day St. Patrick's and [illegible] themed celebration features food, [illegible], a wine tasting, and a [illegible] of Periscope's new release "[illegible]". Wed., March 17, 5-9 p.m. $7-$10. Periscope Cellars & Gallery, 1410 62nd St., Emeryville, 510-655-7802, PeriscopeCellars.com.

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family [illegible]. For info, visit PCFMA.com. Tuesdays, 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Alameda St. [illegible] Haight Ave., Alameda St., Alameda.

Berkeley [illegible] Tue., March 23, 2-7 p.m. free. Berkeley Farmers' Market, Derby St., Berkeley, 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org.

Farm Fresh Choice Community [illegible] Farm Fresh Choice runs produce stands in culturally diverse, limited-income neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. free. 510-548-1704, EcologyCenter.org. [illegible] Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley, 510-981-5158, CI.berkeley.ca.us/[illegible]

Hayward Farmers' Market With [illegible] selling locally grown California produce at the main entrance to the [illegible], Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. [illegible] Hayward, 27300 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

[illegible] Oakland, Grand Lake With vendors selling fresh, organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. [illegible] Oakland, 3801 [illegible] St., Oakland.

[illegible] Farmers' Market With [illegible] seasonal produce on the rooftop patio. Tuesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Walnut Creek, 1425 South Main St., Walnut Creek.

[illegible] Farmers' Market With a variety of fresh flowers, all organic chocolates, bee products, fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, butters, bread, healthy fresh pasta, and seasonal [illegible]. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. [illegible] Circle, at the [illegible] Circle, Kensington.

Laurel District Farmers' Market Sponsored and maintained by [illegible] Food Connection, a nonprofit that strives to broaden nutritional awareness, access to healthy foods, and the connections between people and our planet. The market includes certified organic produce from [illegible] Organic Farm based out of Salinas, CA and a youth-led program-based booth [illegible] Lawn Cafe. For more info or to find out how to become involved please [illegible] at [illegible], or call 510-482-1008. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Laurel [illegible] Farmers' Market, 4173 MacArthur Blvd.

North Shattuck Farmers' Market [illegible], specialty foods, all-organic farmers, and [illegible] for sale, plus special programs and events. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. free. [illegible], 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market Seasonal produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked bread, pastries, cut flowers, specialty foods, [illegible], live music, and arts and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Jack London Square, 70 Washington St., Oakland, 510-637-1871, JackLondonSquare.com.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, [illegible], specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-981-8700.

[illegible] Farmers' Market California [illegible], offer [illegible] produce, dried fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, fresh-cut [illegible], and more. Info: 510-745-7100. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. [illegible] Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, breads, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. free. 510-548-3333, EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley.

PICK

Environmentalism Benefit

Having saved millions of acres around the world, largely by persuading corporations to change their practices, San Francisco-based **Rainforest Action Network celebrates its 25th anniversary** with a benefit feast at **Lake Chalet Seafood Bar & Grill** (1520 Lakeside Dr., Oakland) on Thursday, Mar. 18. Talks by activists accompany a meal crafted by French Laundry alum and executive chef Jared Gallagher. 7 p.m., sliding scale $50-$1,000. RAN.org/LakeChalet. — *Arnoldi Rufus*

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MOTHER SUPERIOR

Bong Joon-ho's *Mother* is one of the new year's most rewarding dramas. *The Girl on the Train* isn't.

By Kelly Vance

Kim Hye-ja stars in the South Korean film *Mother*.

The current vogue for South Korean films is grounded in considerable talent. Although most contemporary American audiences' first Korean encounters were of the jump-out-and-go-boo variety, there's much more to it than K-horror. Filmmakers as diverse as Park Chan-wook (*Thirst*, *Old Boy*), Hong Sang-soo (*Like You Know It All*), Kim Ji-woon (*A Tale of Two Sisters*), and Yim Pil-sung (*Hansel and Gretel*) have demonstrated not only the cinematographic eye for startling detail we've come to expect from Korea, but also an increasingly sophisticated sense of story.

Bong Joon-ho's direction of the newly imported detective story *Mother* is a case in point. From the evidence of his last few efforts — the 2006 giant monster thriller *The Host* and "Shaking Tokyo," Bong's twisted character study from the compilation film *Tokyo!* — he could well be the poster boy for the Seoul film industry's coming-of-age. *Mother* (Korean title: *Madeo*) is a further advance along the line of the eccentric "Shaking Tokyo," a cinema inside a riddle wrapped in a deceptively old-fashioned tale of murder. It's Bong's best film yet, an intriguingly sour art-house treat, and one of the most rewarding films of the new year.

We begin wondering about Yoon Do-joon (played by actor Bin Won) as soon as we meet him on the main drag of his little town, essentially playing in traffic. From out of nowhere, a Mercedes appears and clips Do-joon, then drives on, with him and his buddies in hot pursuit. They catch up with the culprits playing golf at a nearby country club and give the unrepentant men a beating, but we can't help noticing there's something a little off about Do-joon. He's developmentally challenged — that's one reason why his mother, otherwise unnamed, spends so much time tending to him.

Mother (Kim Hye-ja) is a case for further study in her own right. When she's not busy running the local herbalist shop and administering acupuncture treatments to patients — illegally, it turns out — Mother keeps a close eye on her 27-year-old boy. Perhaps a tad too close. We observe her feeding him soup while he's peeing, both of them unconcerned, as if it happens every day, and mother and son evidently share the same bed. It isn't enough that Mother dotes on her unruly man-child and operates on her customers without a license — she has a sharp tongue and a combative temper, traits that make her an unpopular figure in the small town.

Mother

Directed by Bong Joon-ho. With Kim Hye-ja and Won Bin. Opens Friday.

The Girl on the Train

Directed by André Téchiné. With Émilie Dequenne, Catherine Deneuve, and Michel Blanc. Opens Friday.

She's also one determined mother. One night, Do-joon goes out to a nearby restaurant to make a nuisance of himself by getting drunk, and on his way home has a brief exchange of words with a young woman, who actively avoids his come-on. The two part ways, and when the young woman's dead body is discovered the next morning, suggestively draped over a balcony, Do-joon is hustled into the police station and charged with murder. He goes along with a policeman's suggestion to sign a confession and is immediately jailed to await trial.

Mother pretty much turns the village upside down in her crude but persistent efforts to defend her son. She gets into a brawl with the victim's family, consults the local shyster lawyer, and shadows the town tough guy Jin-tae (Ku Jin), who promptly shakes down the old lady for the equivalent of $5,000 for his investigative skills. We learn about Do-joon, his pals, the victim, the old junk man who lives outside town, and Mother herself, and it gets weirder as it goes on.

Bong's story — he wrote it for the screen with Park Eun-kyo — doesn't say much for either forensic-evidence gathering or criminal-law procedure in South Korea. The police essentially don't care if Do-joon actually killed the victim — in the time-honored manner of small-town cops everywhere, they've made up their minds and don't want to be bothered with it any further. Do-joon is the perfect fall guy. A sickening uneasiness settles into the scenario as in a despairing film noir. Like a well thought-out combination of Claude Chabrol and Shohei Imamura, *Mother* delights in peeling back the layers of polite behavior and displaying the elemental, brutal side of life, in the social fabric as well as in the characters. Mother's low cunning is tinged with a touchingly protective forbearance toward her son, as if the more monstrous his supposed crimes, the stronger her resolve to fight for him.

Major kudos to veteran actor Kim as Mother, trudging the village in search of clues to exonerate her helpless son while simultaneously practicing guile and deception. Bin's role-playing as Do-joon is also a nasty piece of work, as we learn that even poor unfortunates can harbor a deep streak of malevolence. Filmmaker Bong's plotting and pacing are superb. The story moves forward in short, halting steps until it's ready to leap up and scare the hell out of us — not with ghosts or creatures but with unpredictable human nature.

André Téchiné's *The Girl on the Train* is also a bit of a crime caper, but crimes of the heart — indeed, defects of personality — are what veteran filmmaker Téchiné is about here, with spotty success.

The screenplay, by the director with Odile Barski and Jean-Marie Besset, presents us with a feast of characters: the title young woman, Jeanne (Émilie Dequenne), a spoiled Parisian who apparently floats around on inline skates for a living; her mother Louise (Catherine Deneuve), a daycare center operator; family friend and Jewish activist attorney Samuel Bleistein (Michel Blanc); Jeanne's new boyfriend Franck (Nicolas Duvauchelle), a wrestler with shady acquaintances; Bleistein's son Alex (Mathieu Demy, son of filmmakers Jacques Demy and Agnès Varda); Alex's ex-wife Judith (Israeli actress Ronit Elkabetz); and Judith's son Nathan (Jérémie Quaegebeur), who is about to be bar-mitzvahed.

But the feast fails to satisfy. Blame it on the writing. Against a background of TV news reports of anti-Semitic attacks, Jeanne cooks up a preposterous but nonetheless hot-button story of being assaulted on board a Métro train by youths who believed her to be Jewish. She does it to deflect attention away from her own problems, but the resulting heat does more or less the same damage to Téchiné's film as it does to the relationships between Jeanne and her mother, and Jeanne and everyone else.

Ms. Dequenne is fascinating as the tormented center of attention, but not quite fascinating enough. Louise, Bleistein, Franck the maladroit outsider, and even the kid Nathan are neater dramatic subjects, whether as hooks on which to hang a scant social message (the false assault is derided as "any excuse to accuse inner-city youths") or for their own sakes. They fall by the wayside, and so does *The Girl on the Train*. ●

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MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrew Grimwall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.) and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to editor@eastbayexpress.com.

OPENING

The Bounty Hunter Romantic [illegible] starring Jennifer Aniston and Gerard Butler [illegible] by Andy Tennant. [illegible]

Diary of a Wimpy Kid [illegible] the end [illegible] when the PG rating [illegible] that "some material may be unsuitable for children," in fact it's [illegible] for children, [illegible] finding [illegible] adults. [illegible] Zachary Gordon and Robert Capron [illegible] junior-high [illegible] friendship [illegible]. The film was adapted from a novel by Jeff Kinney, but director Thor Freudenthal (*Hotel for Dogs*) probably [illegible]

The Girl on the Train (La Fille du Train) In and around contemporary Paris, a [illegible] young woman named Jeanne (Émilie Dequenne) tries to cover up her [illegible] by falsely [illegible] to police and [illegible] anti-Semitic [illegible] on the Métro. This leads to bigger trouble with Jeanne's [illegible] (Catherine Deneuve, [illegible]), the mother's Jewish activist [illegible] (Michel Blanc) and the activist's family. It also leads to a narrative [illegible] director André Téchiné [illegible] Odile Barski and Jean-Marie Besset, [illegible] several films with [illegible] (*The Witnesses*, [illegible]) but they generally hold together better than this [illegible] drama, [illegible] competent leads by Deneuve, [illegible] Ronit Elkabetz, and [illegible] Duvauchelle as Franck, Jeanne's shady boyfriend (105 min.) (K.V.)

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (Man som hatar kvinnor) A Stockholm magazine journalist with a [illegible] hanging over him (Michael Nyqvist) joins forces with the [illegible] punkish computer hacker (Noomi Rapace) to investigate a forty-year-old missing persons case involving a family of [illegible] Swedish industrialists. [illegible] takes his time setting up the [illegible] between [illegible] (Nyqvist) and [illegible] girl Lisbeth (Rapace), but once they get rolling and things get [illegible] the [illegible] is [illegible] and [illegible], in an [illegible] way. The [illegible] mystery of the [illegible] Vanger family's [illegible] as interesting as the [illegible] of Lisbeth's [illegible] state [illegible] the world. The slightly silly screenplay is by [illegible]

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Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule. AL = Albany; [illegible] BK = Blackhawk; [illegible] BS = Bay Street; CA = California; CAPH [illegible] CCC = Contra Costa Cinemas; [illegible] CRC = Crow Canyon; CSC = Chabot Space and Science; CUC = Century Union City; CWC = Century Walnut Creek; [illegible] GL = Grand Lake; JL = Jack London; [illegible] PM = Piedmont; RA = Regal Antioch; [illegible]

Avril and Rasmus Rheinberg, from Stieg Larsson's novel. This was reportedly 2009's number-one box-office hit in Europe under its original title, [illegible] translates as "Men Who Hate Women." (152 min., 2009, not rated.) (K.V.)(A)

Mother (Madeo) South Korea's Bong Joon-ho [illegible] one of that cinema-mad country's finest directors with this incredibly woven, emotionally [illegible] story of a developmentally challenged, small-town young man (Won Bin) charged with the murder of a young woman, and the harrowing lengths to which the young man's mother (Kim Hye-ja, in a terrific performance) goes to defend him. As the mother trudges through the village in search of clues to exonerate her son, a sickening atmosphere settles into the scenario by Park Eun-kyo and Bong [illegible] a deepening [illegible] with [illegible] and twists. The character moves forward in short, halting steps until it's ready to leap up and scare the hell out of us, one with [illegible] but with unpredictable human nature. A winner. (128 min.) (K.V.)(CAPH, S)

Neil Young Trunk Show Jonathan Demme follows up on his 2006 doc *Neil Young: Heart of Gold* with this more purely performance-based film, shot at a concert at the Tower Theatre in Upper Darby, PA. Young plays unplugged and plugged-in renditions of such NY songbook faves as "No Hidden Path," "Sad Movies," "Like a Hurricane," and "Cinnamon Girl." The [illegible] songs are so long and the tour's [illegible] on-stage painter has time to paint the next song's title card while the [illegible] one is being played. For Baby, here, a valuable document of their aging troubadour's appeal. He may look like an old rock with a guitar, but [illegible] It's a young man's music. (88 min., 2009, not rated) (K.V.)(A)

Repo Men Futuristic thriller featuring Jude Law, Forest Whitaker and Liev Schreiber. Directed by Miguel Sapochnik. (BC, BP, CWC, CR, CPH, CH, CUC, CR, CCC, GL, S, WWS)

The Runaways Directed by Floria Sigismondi, this biopic about the pioneering girl-rock band is familiar with stories—the raw beginnings, the rise to fame, the burnout as the characters fall prey to drugs, celebrity, and egomania. But it also wades into the tangled gender politics surrounding the band, which assaulted the rock establishment with a sexuality as bold as any man's but was entirely manufactured by a cynical male svengali [illegible] Kim Fowley [illegible] is heightened by the fact that Michael Shannon (*Revolutionary Road*) steals his every scene as the autocratic Fowley while Kristen Stewart and Dakota Fanning [illegible] the 70s wallpaper as guitarist Joan Jett and front woman Cherie Currie. Making her feature debut, Sigismondi [illegible] up a [illegible] New World Pictures vibe that's [illegible] the script is [illegible] from Currie's autobiography, which explains the [illegible] that shows her unhappy home life. (100 min.) (L.)(CWC, CR, CPH, CH, CUC, CAPH, SH)

ONGOING

Alice in Wonderland [illegible] for its own good. The result Alice should be [illegible] foreign, about [illegible], even threatening. Previous tellings of the [illegible] in the Tim Burton/Disney version, even though it takes [illegible] and Burton [illegible] working from an adaptation by Linda Woolverton [illegible] was shackled by the [illegible] "too-muchness" of the project. [illegible] actress Mia Wasikowska as [illegible] Alice; Johnny Depp as the [illegible] Michael Jackson-inflected Mad Hatter; the voice of Alan Rickman as Absolem the hookah-smoking caterpillar and Anne Hathaway as the [illegible] White Queen. [illegible] Crispin Glover's evil Red Knight; [illegible] Consumer note: [illegible] whether you see it in 3-D or 2-D, so save the "premium" [illegible] Helena Bonham Carter as the Red Queen, and the voices of Stephen Fry (Cheshire Cat), Timothy Spall (March Hare), Michael Sheen (White Rabbit), Christopher Lee (Jabberwocky), and [illegible] (108 min.) (ARC, BB, BC, BP, CWC, CR, CPH, CH, CUC, CH, CUC, CL, CRD, PA, PP, [illegible])

An Education A precocious middle-class [illegible] high school student [illegible] by Carey Mulligan [illegible] falls hard for an urbane, [illegible] older man (Peter Sarsgaard) with a [illegible] of charm [illegible] to Paris. [illegible] 1961. But there's something a bit dodgy about David and his friends. [illegible] director Lone Scherfig [illegible] Emma Thompson and Olivia Williams [illegible] and Sally Hawkins in a quick [illegible] role [illegible] The smart screenplay was adapted by [illegible] Nick Hornby from a memoir by journalist Lynn Barber. (95 min.) (P.C.)(BA, V)

Avatar Five years in the making, three hours in the unveiling, writer-director James Cameron (*The Terminator*, *The Abyss*, *Titanic*) aims for epic sweep with his story of rapacious earthlings disturbing the heavily jungled planet of Pandora and trying to obliterate the tall, powerful, blue-skinned natives in order to steal their minerals. The CGI creatures [illegible] gorgeous [illegible] flying [illegible] raging [illegible] but the screenplay's [illegible] strictly second hand (à la *Dances with Wolves*, *The New World*, etc.) and the dialogue is laughable. There's a good guy, a conscientious soldier named Jake (Sam Worthington), who [illegible] against his role as a shape-shifting Avatar [illegible] — but he gets lost in the shuffle. The US military/corporate bad guys (Stephen Lang, Giovanni Ribisi) are standard-issue, as are the Na'vi [illegible] including Jake's [illegible] girlfriend (voice of Zoe Saldana). [illegible] King of the World sometimes needs writing help. (162 min.) (K.V.)(ARC, CWC, CUC, [illegible])

The Blind Side Based on the nonfiction book by Michael Lewis, this [illegible] tells the story of Michael Oher, a gigantic black teenager from impoverished West Memphis [illegible] as a charity case by a local Christian [illegible] and taken in and ultimately adopted by a wealthy white family [illegible] who was drafted in the first round this year by the

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THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (NR)

THE LAST STATION (R)

CALIFORNIA 2113 Kittredge near Shattuck, Berkeley
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THE GHOST WRITER (PG-13)

SHUTTER ISLAND (R)

AJAMI [illegible]

PIEDMONT 4186 Piedmont at 41st, Oakland
Buy Tix www.landmarktheatres.com or 777-FILM #015

THE GHOST WRITER (PG-13)

GREEN ZONE (R)

★ CRAZY HEART (R)

THE NEVERENDING STORY (PG)

SHATTUCK 2230 Shattuck at Kittredge, Berkeley
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THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN AMERICA: DANIEL ELLSBERG (NR)

A PROPHET (R)

BROOKLYN'S FINEST (R)

★ THE HURT LOCKER (R)

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MOTHER (R)

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[illegible] Raven. The story is inspiring and involves sports, but to call it an inspirational sports story would be wrong; its real center is Leigh Anne Tuohy (Sandra Bullock in a fine performance), the [illegible] mother who [illegible] and generously helped [illegible] a mute, homeless boy with [illegible] into a functioning young man with a promising future. [illegible] and they may well be right, but as a fable [illegible] the grace of giving, it hits pretty hard. John Lee Hancock (The Rookie) directed his own script, with Tim McGraw, Kathy Bates, and Quinton Aaron as [illegible]. (126 min.) [illegible]

Brooklyn's Finest Three [illegible] cops on the edge in this [illegible]. [illegible] Ethan Hawke is a hard-charging narc who's desperate to move his kids and pregnant wife (Lili Taylor) out of [illegible] bungalow; [illegible] Gere is a [illegible] and Don Cheadle is an undercover [illegible] with a drug lord (Wesley Snipes) is beginning to outweigh his loyalty to the badge. Eventually they all wind up [illegible] but it takes 140 [illegible]. Antoine Fuqua has come a long way down since Training Day (140 min.) [illegible]

Bunny Pe Daam [illegible] star in the tale of a young man trying to break into Bollywood. Directed by Ken Ghosh.

Cop Out Nothing to see here. Keep moving, folks. Willis and Tracy Morgan are New York cops, [illegible] Kevin Smith [illegible] Mark Cullen (Heist, Las Vegas) [illegible] Adam Brody. (107 min.) [illegible]

The Crazies Average horror flick [illegible] producer George Romero, whose 1973 film [illegible] the direction of Breck Eisner [illegible] effects and a screenplay [illegible] by Scott Kosar and Ray Wright, whose things begin to [illegible] residents of a [illegible] town [illegible] (Timothy Olyphant) [illegible] (Radha Mitchell) [illegible] (Joe Anderson) [illegible] High-Fructose Corn Syrup? (101 min.) [illegible] University of California, Hayward.

Crazy Heart Jeff Bridges gives a signature performance as Bad Blake, a grizzled, [illegible] country singer-songwriter [illegible] (Maggie Gyllenhaal) [illegible] (Colin Farrell) [illegible] Scott Cooper from Thomas Cobb's novel [illegible] T-Bone Burnett [illegible] Stephen Bruton and Ryan Bingham [illegible] Kris Kristofferson [illegible] with Robert Duvall and Paul Herman (111 min.) [illegible]

Dear John An excruciating two-hanky [illegible] Lasse Hallström [illegible] Nicholas Sparks [illegible] (Channing Tatum) [illegible] (Amanda Seyfried) [illegible] Charleston, SC, since 2001 [illegible] Richard Jenkins [illegible] (The Cider House Rules, Chocolat, The Shipping News) [illegible] (108 min.) [illegible] University of California, Hayward.

Fantastic Mr. Fox Maybe all along Wes Anderson [illegible] George Clooney [illegible] Meryl Streep, Willem Dafoe [illegible] Wes Anderson (The Royal Tenenbaums, The Darjeeling Limited) [illegible] (87 min.) [illegible]

The Ghost Writer Roman Polanski [illegible] Ewan McGregor [illegible] (Pierce Brosnan) [illegible] Olivia Williams [illegible] Kim Cattrall [illegible] Tom Wilkinson [illegible] Eli Wallach [illegible] (128 min.) [illegible]

The Good Guy [illegible] Wall Street stock trader Tommy (Scott Porter) is going to lose his sensible girlfriend, Beth (Alexis Bledel), to Daniel, Tommy's shy [illegible] (Bryan Greenberg) [illegible] manipulating for long, not even in New York. Like Sex and the City with [illegible] (90 min.) [illegible]

Green Zone It's Matt Damon against the forces in Paul Greengrass' frantic [illegible] Roy Miller [illegible] Greg Kinnear [illegible] Brian Helgeland [illegible] Rajiv Chandrasekaran [illegible] Khalid Abdalla [illegible] (115 min.) [illegible]

(Dulha Mil Gaya) Fardeen Khan, Sushmita Sen, and Shahrukh Khan [illegible]

Ishqiya Vidya Balan [illegible] Directed by Abhishek Chaubey.

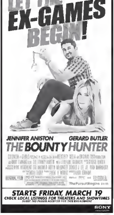
It's Complicated [illegible] Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin, and Steve Martin [illegible] Nancy Meyers [illegible] (Baby Boom, Father of the Bride) [illegible] (118 min.) [illegible]

The Last Station Filmmaker Michael Hoffman's [illegible] Christopher Plummer [illegible] Leo Tolstoy, and Helen Mirren [illegible] James McAvoy [illegible] Paul Giamatti [illegible] Jay Parini [illegible] (Kerry Condon) [illegible] (112 min., 2009) rated R. [illegible]

Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg and the Pentagon Papers [illegible] Judith Ehrlich and Rick Goldsmith [illegible] Daniel Ellsberg [illegible] 1971 [illegible] "Pentagon Papers." [illegible] Richard Nixon [illegible] (92 min.) [illegible]

My Name Is Khan Shahrukh Khan stars in this [illegible] 9/11-themed drama. Directed by Karan Johar.

Mysteries of Egypt National Geographic [illegible] Egyptian civilization.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The Neverending Story Children's classic [illegible] by Wolfgang Petersen.

[illegible] Family Reunion Forest Whitaker goes slumming in a Meet the [illegible] thing, with Lance Gross as an African-American young man [illegible] to marry his Mexican-American [illegible], played by America Ferrera. [illegible] Whitaker and Carlos Mencia [illegible] and the [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] the [illegible] on the wedding day. [illegible] wrote the screenplay with [illegible] and Wayne [illegible] [illegible] Whitaker gets some of the big [illegible] but Regina King, as [illegible] lawyer/ lover, gets her share as well. Of course, [illegible] (105 min.) [illegible]

Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief Filmmaker Chris Columbus brings ancient Greek mythology to contemporary America in this atypical, [illegible] [illegible] rite-of-passage fantasy revolving around New York City teen Percy [illegible] (played by Logan Lerman). Teenage Percy, offspring of his mortal mother (Catherine Keener) and the god Poseidon (Kevin McKidd), is gifted with magical powers and it's up to him — with help from fellow demi-gods Annabeth (daughter of Athena) and goat-legged satyr [illegible] — to go out questing for Zeus' stolen lightning bolt [illegible] in Hades. The [illegible] is [illegible] short of showing for [illegible] (Brosnan), Sean Bean (Zeus), [illegible] (Persephone), and [illegible] as Percy's [illegible]; but the [illegible] goes to Uma Thurman as snake-headed Medusa. It's also a showcase to see Steve Coogan in [illegible]. Craig Titley [illegible] the screenplay from Rick Riordan's young adult novel (119 min.) [illegible]

Pirate Radio For [illegible] who can never get enough '60s rock on the soundtrack, the film event of the year. But practically anyone who can find a laugh in the antics of a crew of [illegible] blasting the Kinks, the Troggs, Turtles, Hollies, Crazy [illegible], Jeff Beck, Dusty Springfield, et al. to English listeners from a ship anchored in the North Sea. On board are Philip Seymour Hoffman, Rhys Ifans, Bill Nighy, Nick Frost, and Tom Sturridge among the deejays, with a [illegible] Kenneth Branagh as the sinister government minister [illegible] and Emma Thompson as somebody's [illegible] mum. It's a [illegible] bummer [illegible] on the high seas, [illegible] with [illegible] by Richard Curtis (*[illegible]*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*) [illegible] screenplay. British wits. *The Boat That Rocked* (135 min.) [illegible]

A Prophet (Un prophète) [illegible] [illegible] a nineteen-year-old half-French, half-Arab petty criminal with [illegible] [illegible] in a French prison and must make [illegible] to survive. [illegible] [illegible] the underworld is vividly etched by [illegible]. [illegible]

Audiard (*The Beat That My Heart Skipped*), with a screenplay he wrote with [illegible], [illegible] from a [illegible] by Abdel Raouf Dafri and Nicolas Peufaillit. A [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible] in the [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] from the [illegible] to the prison [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] in the [illegible]. Compares favorably to the classic [illegible] of Jean-Pierre Melville, with [illegible] of [illegible] and the [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] (155 min.) [illegible]

Red Riding Trilogy [illegible] from David Peace's quartet of novels [illegible] the dark underside of the [illegible] county of [illegible]. These three interlocking detective [illegible] follow the investigation, [illegible] into the [illegible] in the 1970s and '80s, when a number of young women and girls were kidnapped, [illegible] raped, and murdered — and the local police [illegible] establishments [illegible] to cover it all up. *Red Riding: 1974*, directed by Julian Jarrold, stars Andrew Garfield as an inquisitive newspaper reporter. *Red Riding: 1980*, by [illegible] [illegible] a police [illegible] (Paddy Considine) who can't make any headway. Around [illegible] 1983 installment wraps the whole sordid [illegible] up in a bloody burlap bag. There are weak spots, but the cumulative effect of a vast tapestry of [illegible] corruption [illegible] who isn't a total ghoul [illegible]. Such [illegible] is showing [illegible]. Adapted by Tony Grisoni. Also with Sean [illegible], Jim Carter, Mark Addy, and David Morrissey. (1974: 106 min.; 1980: 98 min.; 1983: 104 min.) [illegible]

Remember Me Romance [illegible] lovers who've [illegible] dealing with family tragedy. Directed by Allen Coulter, starring Robert Pattinson. [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

She's Out of My League Romantic comedy about an [illegible] guy dating his dream girl. Directed by Jim Field Smith. [illegible]

Shutter Island Having Martin Scorsese direct a silly psychological thriller like this is like asking a famous chef to boil some eggs and open a can of baked beans. US marshals Leonardo DiCaprio and Mark Ruffalo take a ferry boat to a [illegible] mental institution on the title island in the bloody [illegible] of [illegible] to investigate one mystery, and they end up facing several others. [illegible] Ben Kingsley and Max Von Sydow, a [illegible] (Patricia Clarkson or Emily Mortimer) [illegible] [illegible] inmates, creepy guards, the DiCaprio character's bad dreams about his late family and [illegible]. He sees [illegible] people. This [illegible] [illegible] dread [illegible] the novel by Dennis Lehane of *Mystic River* [illegible] as well [illegible] as that Jonathan [illegible] screenplay adaptation by Laeta Kalogridis [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] than that, we can tell that Scorsese's heart just isn't in it. Costarring Jackie Earle Haley and Ted Levine. [illegible] (138 min.) [illegible]

[illegible] The story of [illegible] [illegible]

Sweetgrass [illegible] [illegible] and Lucien Castaing-Taylor hit the trail with a [illegible] of Montana sheep [illegible], and we tag along, in this [illegible] cinéma-vérité documentary. After [illegible] of shearing and the birth of lambs, it [illegible] [illegible] as the [illegible] and his [illegible] drive their huge flock into the [illegible] Beartooth Mountains for summer grazing, on the lookout for bears and the type of trouble only sheep can get into. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] just [illegible] [illegible] and a lot of potential [illegible] as the [illegible]. Produced by the [illegible] Sensory Ethnography Lab (101 min.) [illegible]

To Be an Astronaut [illegible] what it takes? Take a trip behind the gates of NASA for an IMAX-enhanced view of everything from training to liftoff (40 min.) [illegible]

Tooth Fairy For the crime of [illegible] a kid's dream, a self-centered, [illegible] ice hockey player (Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson) is [illegible] to [illegible], to [illegible] [illegible] fairy [illegible] with wings and [illegible]. [illegible] up the [illegible] [illegible] of this forgettable [illegible] [illegible] are the [illegible] of Julie [illegible]

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MON-THUR 7:00

SHUTTER ISLAND (R)
FRI-THUR 4:15 8:30

ALICE IN WONDERLAND 3D in Disney Digital 3D (PG)
FRI-SAT-SUN 11:30 2:00 4:30 7:15, 9:45
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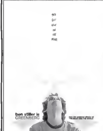

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as the fairy godmother and Billy Crystal as a wise-mouth elf. [illegible] Marshall [illegible] twilight years, also starring the [illegible] Ashley Judd. [illegible] by Marshall. [illegible] (104 min.) (KV)RA

Up in the Air George Clooney once again shines as a slick corporate [illegible] Ryan Bingham, [illegible] American [illegible] employees by the hundreds [illegible] his one true passion — racking up [illegible] frequent flier miles. [illegible] Anna Kendrick, in a star turn [illegible] for her. And maybe for himself. The screenplay, by [illegible] and [illegible] Turner from Walter Kirn's novel, sums up some of the most [illegible] of the 21st [illegible] into a [illegible] job. With Vera Farmiga [illegible] (KV)CF RCE

Valentine's Day Light, fluffy, [illegible] gives [illegible] Garry Marshall a chance to [illegible] over an "all-star cast" of characters in different [illegible] of [illegible] arrangements: Jessica Biel, Bradley Cooper, Julia Roberts, Eric Dane, Ashton Kutcher, Jamie Foxx, [illegible] Shirley MacLaine, et al. [illegible] Anne Hathaway as a phone sex entertainer but it really doesn't matter. The writing, by [illegible] Fugate, Abby Kohn, and Marc Silverstein, is enough to [illegible] you swear off candy forever (121 min.) (KV)RA

The Wolfman Gothic as all hell. Universal studios' [illegible] horror [illegible] very stylishly [illegible] updated by director Joe Johnston with [illegible] of [illegible] Films, Francis Coppola and [illegible] (from his *The Company of Wolves*). The Victorian setting is well conceived, and director [illegible] has the [illegible] for the role of Lawrence Talbot, who returns to his [illegible] seat in England to visit his father (Anthony Hopkins, [illegible]) and his late brother's fiancée (Emily Blunt, [illegible]) waiting for him amid rumors of a wild monster prowling the countryside. [illegible] with [illegible] (Rick Baker) [illegible] by Andrew Kevin Walker and [illegible] Self, adapted from Curt Siodmak's 1941 original. It's not [illegible] dumb — that's refreshing in a 2010 horror pic. [illegible] as well, especially Hugo Weaving as a Scotland Yard inspector, Geraldine Chaplin as [illegible] and Art Malik as Singh, Sir John's manservant. It's [illegible] something to howl about (126 min.). (KV)RA

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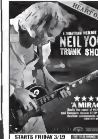

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Mama, Dad, and [illegible] (98 min., 2008). Asian American Film Festival (PFA, 7:00)

Mayon Rai My Dad Country (96 min., 1984). Asian American Film Festival (PFA, 9:00)

FRIDAY, MARCH 19

What We Talk About [illegible] (100 min., 2008-09). Asian American Film Festival (PFA, 7:00)

City of Life and Death (133 min., 2009). Asian American Film Festival (PFA, 9:10)

SATURDAY, MARCH 20

Manila in the Claws of Neon (124 min., 1975). Asian American Film Festival (PFA, 6:00)

About Elly (119 min., 2008). Asian American Film Festival (PFA, 8:30)

SUNDAY, MARCH 21

The Servant (115 min., 1963). Joseph Losey: Pleasures of Provocation (PFA, 5:00)

These Are the Damned (96 min., 1963). Joseph Losey: Pleasures of Provocation (PFA, 7:30)

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4:50) 9:15 R

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ZIGABOOGALOO

Rare lineup pays tribute to legendary drummer Zigaboo Modeliste

By Andrew Gilbert

Zigaboo Modeliste

In the world of funk, you have to travel pretty far to get more than two degrees of separation from Zigaboo Modeliste. A godfather of groove who transformed various New Orleans street beats into an infinitely pliable rhythmic vocabulary, Modeliste is one of the most sampled drummers on the planet.

As the motor and co-composer for the legendary New Orleans rhythm and blues band the Meters, Modeliste laid a foundation of funk for the hip-hop nation. A short list of artists who have sampled his beats, often without authorization, starts with Ice Cube, LL Cool J, NWA, Public Enemy, Salt-N-Pepa, Digital Underground, De La Soul, Beastie Boys, Naughty by Nature, and Queen Latifah.

These days, the Oakland-based Modeliste is deep into a gloriously productive second act. After a decade off the scene following the messy dissolution of the Meters in 1977, Modeliste has taken his time building a small empire, complete with record label, educational videos, and publishing. It's a mark of the man that rather than becoming embittered after bad business decisions torpedoed the Meters at the height of their national visibility, Modeliste decided to take on the music business on its own terms.

"When I started at seventeen or eighteen, I saw a lot of great songwriters and artists who put a lot of great music in the world, who had a lot of success, but at the end of the day someone handled their publishing and wouldn't pay them," said Modeliste, 61. "I could tell you a whole bunch of stories like that but I don't want to dwell there if I don't have to. I want to take the bull by the horns."

Usually heard around the region with his hard-driving New Aahkesstra, Modeliste is stepping out with an entirely different kind of show this week. The three-day celebration that opens on Friday at Yoshi's, "Zigaboogaloo," features an all-star New Orleans funk revue with associates old and new, including Mac Rebennack (aka Dr. John), who recorded two classic albums with the Meters in the mid-Seventies, alto saxophonist Donald Harrison Jr., trumpeter Nicholas Payton, and bassist David Barard.

In typical New Orleans fashion, the musicians are linked through a skein of intergenerational connections. While Modeliste has never played with Payton before, he's known the trumpeter since he was a child through his father, the esteemed bassist Walter Payton. And Modeliste soaked up rhythms as a child from the Mardi Gras Indians, the ceremonial parade societies in which Donald Harrison Sr. long played an important role.

"I haven't seen or talked to Walter Payton in ages, but he taught my stepson trumpet," Modeliste said. "He was one of the finest musicians to come out of New Orleans and a fine gentleman, and Nick didn't fall too far from the tree. He's the ultimate trumpeter player. And Donald is a monster on the saxophone. This lineup is rare, rare, rare — spices that have never been in the same pot. This should be a delicacy of funk and gospel and Indian and rhythm and blues, all of those things wrapped into one savory gumbo."

Modeliste didn't just lay down the grooves that defined the Meters' instrumental R&B hits such as "Cissy Strut," "Look-Ka Py Py," and "Chicken Strut." He co-wrote the tunes that established the Meters' signature sound featuring lean, muscular, and emphatically danceable rhythms that directly inspired neo-groove outfits such as Galactic, the Greyboy Allstars, and Medeski Martin and Wood.

"I think Zigaboo is one of the most influential drummers around from the Seventies," said Nicholas Payton, who opened his 1998 Verve CD *Payton's Place* with "Zigaboogaloo," a deeply funky tribute to Modeliste. "Some of the things he was doing on the drums had never been done before in R&B or in any type of music for that matter. He just knew how to get right to the pocket at all times."

Modeliste was still a teenager when he joined the band led by keyboardist Art Neville. Modeliste's cousin, bassist George Porter Jr., was already in the group, along with guitarist Leo Nocentelli, when the drummer came on board in 1966. Producers Allen Toussaint and Marshall Sehorn quickly recruited the band as the house rhythm section for their Sansu label.

"You play six nights a week, you're bound to get tight if you explore," Modeliste said. "We had this high-powered engine and we had six nights a week, every week playing in the Quarter to fine tune it. When we started actually recording, we knew how to play together. We knew how to breathe together."

The band turned out a slew of Top-40 R&B hits in the early Seventies, and played on dozens of records by musicians such as Earl King, Betty Harris, and Lee Dorsey. When they made the move to Reprise in 1972, it seemed like the band was on the verge of breaking through to a national audience.

The ambitious Wild Tchoupitoulas project, which expanded the group's sound with Neville brothers Aaron, Charles, and Cyril and two members of the Mardi Indians, indicated the band was looking for new directions. Despite critical praise and high-profile gigs like opening for the Rolling Stones on the band's 1975 world tour and recording with Paul McCartney, too much bad blood had been accumulated.

"We did a lot in the short period of time in terms of contributing music," Modeliste said. "But if you sign bad contracts from the very onset, there's no way that can be a healthy scene later. The group started blaming each other. It was a very tragic thing because it was like a really beautiful ride while it was going, with so much potential."

While Porter, Art Neville, and Nocentelli refounded the band as the Funky Meters, and the Neville Brothers became more famous than the original Meters ever did, Modeliste moved to LA hoping to break into the studio scene. But with the ascendance of disco, his funky beats weren't in vogue and he stopped playing music for a while.

By the time he came to the Bay Area in the early Nineties, Modeliste was ready to get his own thing going. He gradually returned to band leading, assembling Zigaboo Modeliste and the New Aahkesstra, an excellent ensemble well versed in the Crescent City grooves he helped invent. While still something of an underground phenomenon in the Bay Area, he's an institution in New Orleans, where he returns regularly for gigs, particularly during the Jazz and Heritage Festival.

"It started off as a thing to play some New Orleans music, because that's my whole heritage," Modeliste said. "A lot of people in California love to dance, but they don't have the whole story. We try to fulfill the whole agenda with dance music. Now I can stretch a little bit, I can use horns, and I was never able to do that with the Meters." ●

Show Details

Zigaboogaloo happens at Yoshi's (510 Embarcadero, Oakland) on Friday, Mar. 19 and Saturday, Mar. 20, 8 & 10 p.m., Sunday, Mar. 21, 2 & 7 p.m. $35. 510-238-9200 or Yoshis.com

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JAPAN'S WOMEN PUT THEIR STAMP ON ROCK

The landscape has changed since the early days of Red Bacteria Vacuum

By Kirsty Evans

All-female Japanese punk band Red Bacteria Vacuum formed more than [illegible] years ago in Osaka, back when it was rare to see women in punk bands in Japan. But things have changed quite a bit since the band started out.

"There are more women who've started to play rock music, but it's not necessarily all-women bands," said bassist Kassan from her home in Tokyo. "Usually you see bands that have both women and men as members. I feel like women have become much stronger compared to ten years ago." In fact, there are more mixed-gender bands in Japan than in the United States, an interesting and perhaps unexpected development. In terms of record sales, female artists like Ayumi Hamasaki and Utada Hikaru are putting the men to shame, and even Japan's most successful rock export, Boris, has a female guitarist.

Red Bacteria Vacuum relocated to Tokyo in 2000 to see how the band's brand of upbeat punk would do in the big city (about 10 percent of Japan's population lives in Tokyo). Today, the capital city has a huge punk scene, with a staggering number of live music venues and tons of small bands, although bands of all kinds tend to end up on the same bill. Kassan says that in general "most Japanese people prefer pop to rock or punk," but the underground scene is thriving.

One of the things that make Red Bacteria Vacuum such a likeable band is that its sound, although clearly punk, also incorporates rock and pop elements. Kassan says that the three members all have very different tastes in music, but there's one band that they all share a love of — metal/punk pioneers L7, a band that totally rejected the pressure to be sexy and bland, focusing instead on creating a killer sound. "The first time I saw L7 I was really inspired by the strength of the women, but I didn't want to copy them," said Kassan. "I tried to incorporate that into our performances." Now that it has been around a while, though, the band no longer feels like it has to try as hard. "We're more relaxed and we like to be as natural as we can be, because we're more confident."

The undercurrent of female strength and confidence, without getting all Indigo Girls about it, is part of what makes Red Bacteria Vacuum so much fun, especially live. Kassan says they'd love to tour with the Yeah Yeah Yeahs and the Pixies (unsurprising since Kassan has a bit of a Kim Deal vibe herself).

Red Bacteria Vacuum

The band toured Japan with Austin-based all-woman punk band the Applicators and says that they'd love the chance to play with more American bands.

Another thing that makes Red Bacteria Vacuum unique among the small but ever-increasing number of Japanese bands that tour America is its unusually hands-on approach. While most Japanese artists keep contact with fans to a minimum, partly for security reasons and partly to maintain a mystique, Red Bacteria Vacuum acts more like an American punk band. If you head to the merchandise table after a show, you'll find them cheerfully selling T-shirts and CDs, and they're happy to pose for pictures with fans. Kassan says this isn't something special they do just for American audiences. "We do the same thing in Japan," she said.

Although their albums are a lot of fun, the band really shines during live shows. "We're happier playing live rather than making records," said Kassan. "I think we perform best on our live shows." Live, they're raucous and energetic, girl power-influenced without being pretentious about it, friendly and prone to high levels of interaction with the audience. Think the best parts of the Riot Grrl movement fed through a Japanese filter.

With a melodic, upbeat, distinctly catchy pop-punk style and a look that's colorful and visually appealing, Red Bacteria Vacuum is well placed to take a leading role in the attempts by the Japanese music industry to expand into America. They're tough but not intimidating, they're fun, and their musical style is a perfect fit for American alternative and college radio. ●

Show Details

Red Bacteria Vacuum plays as part of Japan Nite 2010 at the Independent (628 Divisadero St., San Francisco), along with Chatmonchy, Omodaka, Okamoto's, and Jinny Oops!, on Friday, Mar. 26, 8 p.m. $15. TheIndependentSF.com

To share this story, go to: ebx.by/redbacteria

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A NEW HOME FOR EAST BAY BANDS

An all-ages venue in San Lorenzo hopes to fill a void. Plus: a new web site builds momentum for local indie bands through video

By Kathleen Wentz

Promoter **Andrew Kutsenda** of **PinUp Productions** books most of his shows in the South Bay, which he says "has become a haven for music as of late." Yet many of the bands that play in San Jose are from the East Bay or the Peninsula.

So why are so many East Bay bands going down south? Kutsenda says it's because the East Bay club scene doesn't allow certain kinds of bands to perform. "I love the music coming out of there, but there's also been a strong backlash against it in the underground scene," he said. "If you don't play an acoustic guitar or have a keyboard, you can't make it in the East Bay scene. A lot of bands that have a breakdown or more poppy anthems can't make it."

That's why PinUp Productions, along with **PunkShip Productions**, **A Burning Hollywood Romance Clothing**, and **Arsenia Productions** collaborated to host East Bay shows at an all-ages venue in San Lorenzo called **Ashland Hall** (16490 Kent Ave.). Last year Kutsenda and co. booked about a half-dozen shows at the 250-capacity rental hall, and most of the events sold out or almost sold out. "Kids just latched onto it," he said. "We gave a lot of those kids a place to play. ... We just hit a market that a lot of people hadn't really touched on."

The bands that Kutsenda says draw the largest crowds are **Fighting the Villain** (Fremont), **Picture Me Broken** (Redwood City), **the Dialed** (San Lorenzo), **5606** (San Jose), **Dance My Heart** (Dublin), and **Hope for A.M** (SF). However, most of those bands are quite young and play a style of music that befits the **Warped Tour** — so venues that rely on alcohol sales, are 21-and-over, and start shows around 9 p.m. may find that booking such bands doesn't make a lot of financial sense.

Since the young bands (some with members in high school) attract a similarly young crowd, Kutsenda says that the promoters have purposefully created a "safe place" for kids to go. All the shows are all-ages, substance-free, and, said Kutsenda, mostly profanity-free. "That's what we've been pushing since day one." Accordingly, the shows start as early as 5 p.m.

Although the promoters stopped hosting shows there in December for recessionary reasons, they officially reopened it last Friday and are wholeheartedly renewing efforts to make it a thriving East Bay venue. For more info, go to MySpace.com/pinupproductionssj

Video Saved the Indie Band?

There has certainly been no shortage of folks who decide to start blogs or online magazines devoted to local music. They come and go, some better than others, with the occasional one managing to make it past the three-year mark. **Ryan Andersen**, who founded the site **OneNightMusic.com** last year, believes his all-volunteer collective of contributors has the right infrastructure and momentum to keep things going well into the future. Most importantly, he's got the right format: video.

Like the popular French site **Blogotheque**, which films well-known bands performing on the streets, OneNightMusic.com focuses on an all-video format to showcase bands — in that case, mostly indie local ones in a cozy or informal setting. Since launching in February 2009, the site has grown to include about 32 contributors, including artists (to illustrate the band's profiles), videographers, audio engineers, writers, and others. Featured bands so far include **Bird by Snow**, **Honeycomb**, **All My Pretty Ones**, **Rey Villalobos**, and **Mike Ballan**, among others.

"We're not doing it because of the money," said Andersen, who's currently living up north but has plans to move to San Francisco shortly. "Lately there's been a lot of energy around it. When you have a good thing, people appreciate it."

The idea for OneNightMusic.com started in Santa Barbara, where Andersen attended college in the winter of 2008. He had already been recording his friends' bands in his home studio, his twin brother Ian was a web designer, and friend Elia had a video camera. The idea of filming local artists and putting the videos online seemed like a no-brainer. Shortly thereafter "everyone pretty much moved to San Francisco," said Andersen, which prompted the site to relocate its home base here, too.

Initially, Andersen said they had to put out queries to get bands to record and would film anyone they could; now they've got more booking inquiries than they can handle. To boot, there are certain artists, like **Devil Makes Three**, that they're still pursuing. "It's a good problem to have," he said.

The site publishes one video per week. Andersen said his plans for 2010 include diversifying their programming and incorporating local youth media organizations to supply their own content. He wants to keep the focus local and independent, but also keep an open door policy in terms of content and contributors. Upcoming videos will feature **Felonious**, the **Devotionals**, **Michael Musika**, former SF poet laureate **Jack Hirshman**, and **Buckeye Knoll**.

To get booked on One Night Music or to find out how you can contribute, go to OneNightMusic.com/about/recording.php

Miscellaneous Debris

The video game *Green Day: Rock Band* launches June 8 and will cost $59.99. ... San Francisco's **Sleepy Sun** will release a new album, *Fever*, on June 1 on ATP and plays at the **Rickshaw Stop** on April 24. ... **Cam'Ron** has a new track sampling **Epic Beard Man**. ... **The Mother Hips** will host its second annual **Mother Hips Family Hipnic** at **Fernwood Resort** in Big Sur on April 30 and May 1. Performers include **Dawes**, **Little Wings**, **Jack Green**, **Parson Red Heads**, **Sparrows Gate**, **Neal Casal**, **Farmer Dave**, as well as the Mother Hips (who headline both days). For more info: FolkYeah.com ●

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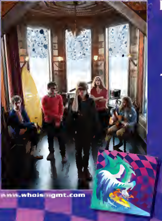

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On April 2nd, join at the Uptown Nightclub in Oakland for the Bay Area's only exclusive MGMT listening party for their upcoming album release *Congratulations!* Sony Music will be on hand from 6-9pm with fabulous prizes to give away to attendees.

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SELF-CONGRATULATORY

Rock 'n' roll injected into tradition, victorious hip-hop, and fake sexiness

Bassekou Kouyate & Ngoni Ba

I Speak Fula

When it comes to interpreting traditional forms of "world music" (a wonderfully vague marketing term), there is the staid musicologist route, which puts a "tradition" under a microscope thereby sucking anything fun out of it. Then there's the approach of bringing progressive sensibilities to bear, embracing tradition while not being constrained by it.

Bassekou Kouyate and his band Ngoni Ba from Mali reflect the latter, injecting improvisation and rock 'n' roll energy (though not the content) to the fore. Kouyate's style is similar to father-and-son Malians Ali and Vieux Farka Toure, but less bluesy in tone. And rather than guitar, the lead axe is the *ngoni* (ancestor to the banjo, btw). Ngoni Ba features four *ngonis*, their sparkling harp-like tones suggesting Indian raga one moment, American bluegrass the next. While the songs are out of the Malian griot tradition, Kouyate speeds up long-standing tempos a notch or two, bringing forth (via both percussion and *ngoni*) an infectious danceable groove. The playing is intricate, but never for its own sake. The ambience is ebullient, the vocal harmonies (featuring Kouyate's wife Amy Sacko) both soulfully plaintive and soothing.

And dig this, indie rock devotees — *I Speak Fula* sees its American release on the iconic Sub Pop label. (Next Ambiance/Sub Pop)

—Mark Keresman

Bassekou Kouyate & Ngoni Ba play Slim's (333 11th St., SF) on Mar. 18, 8 p.m., $20-$25. Slims-SF.com

DJ Khaled

Victory

When you think about it, there's a lot of merit to starting a commercial hip-hop album with a sermon. Most of the genre is about getting on one's 'hustle,' so why not use "getting on" as a governing metaphor? Ergo, the intro to DJ Khaled's new joint, *Victory*: "In life, there's people that hustle. In life, there's people that grind. And there's We the Best, that make history," Khaled growls in the opening lines of what's essentially a two-and-a-half minute encomium — to himself ("We the Best" refers to Khaled's label and his 2007 album. It's also a royal "we.") It seems Khaled made the right choice by starting on a crescendo. He set the pace for eleven more blistering tracks that all hew to the theme of struggle and redemption.

Such Calvinist mores might seem out of place in a medium that's known for libertine lyrics and dissolute lifestyles. But Khaled Bin Abdul Khaled is no ordinary rap artist. Based in Miami, he's a mixtape producer and radio personality who somehow became a rap titan in his own right. *Victory* is the fourth album in Khaled's triumphal discography (his third was called *We Global*). It's thoroughly gripping, filled with marching-band drums, fills, synthetic strings, and cinematic chord voicings. Every song seems to rest on a perfect fifth interval, all of them could easily be a remix for "Chariots of Fire." Khaled even manages to make T-Pain's AutoTune vocals sound big and masculine. (*All I do is win win win*, Pain croons on the first hook.)

Yet it's unclear to what extent Khaled contributed to the actual artistry, aside from setting the tone. The best tracks — "All I Do Is Win," "Killing Me," "Put Your Hands Up," and "Rockin All My Chains On" — succeed more because of the raps than the production. Busta Rhymes snarls wonderfully on the dancehall-influenced "Killing Me." Ludacris' quick-fire cameo on "All I Do Is Win" surpasses most of the stuff he records on his own albums. With those guest stars taken into consideration, it's uncertain whether Khaled deserves the self-congratulatory album title. A "victory," yes — but one wrought with a lot of help from friends. (E1)

—Rachel Swan

Liars

Sisterworld

Regardless of whether Liars have broken ground connecting the amateur groping of punk rock to the exotic modalities of modern (twelve-tone) classical and Eastern European music, *Sisterworld* feels utterly wrenched with bourgeois boredom.

For all that Liars have striven to create an original album, the songs suggest not so much inspiration and composition as hours of laborious mixing and midnight consultations with Brian Eno's *Oblique Strategies*. ("I Still Can See an Outside World" answers Eno's suggestion for "simple subtraction." "Scissor" asks you to "imagine the music as a set of disconnected events.")

Liars work incredibly well in the studio, clang out murky, industrial soundscapes with the ingenuity of Foley artists. Their arrangements deftly juxtapose distorted rock atmospheres with outside elements, such as classical strings — yet their end product is alienating. *Sisterworld*'s melodies avoid resolution and even major scales to the point of conspicuousness. Is this art? Is this a pose? Does it matter? Angus Andrew's fatigued, stoned vocals never leave the forefront and never stop trying to convince you he's sexy in a detached sort of way. Add up all the contemporary artiness and fake sexiness and it's the perfect record for 2010. No fun. (Mute)

—Jonathan Donaldson

Liars play Slim's (333 11th St., SF) on Apr. 27, 8:30 p.m., $15. Slims-SF.com

To share this story go to: ebx.ly/od3

Heathen

The Evolution of Chaos

Heathen plays classic metal, and while there are some hints of thrash and a bit of speed metal to be found on *The Evolution of Chaos*, the album has an old-school feel to it. More classical than blues influenced, the band conjures associations with Iron Maiden, particularly in terms of vocal style. Overall, the music isn't particularly original, but solid nonetheless. (Mascot Records)

Eliot Kenin

The Old Agitator

Eliot Kenin is very, very Bay Area. The music itself isn't much to speak of; it's generically folkie stuff of the sort you can hear for free in almost any coffee shop. What makes it stand out is how unrepentantly leftist Kenin is. If Billy Bragg went folk, this is what he'd probably sound like. (self-released)

Cyndi Harvell

The Night Turned to Song

The Night Turned to Song is chock-full of classic singer-songwriter material. Lyrics are personal and reflective, music is understated and folksy. There's a bit of a country influence on songs like "Slow Way" that works well with Harvell's sweet voice. There's nothing here you haven't heard before, but it's smoothly done. (Fortune Records)

At the Starry Plough (3101 Shattuck St., Berkeley) on Saturday, March 20, 9 p.m., $10.

Bright Light

Animals in Bloom

It's no surprise that Bright Light is getting the chance to play SXSW this year. *Animals in Bloom* is light and sparkly, with an airy sound and charmingly imperfect vocals, full of the kind of songs that would fit easily into any alternative radio station's format. (self-released)

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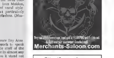

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the brazzee layer with [illegible] 10pm

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double dragon with [illegible] 10pm

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with Patrice Rushen, Ernie Watts, Gary Brown, and Dwight Trible

Fri, Sat, March 19-20
The Original R&B & Funk Band Yoshi's Debut!
CON FUNK SHUN

Sun, Mon, March 21-22
Ukulele Virtuoso Returns!
JAKE SHIMABUKURO

Tues, Wed, March 23-24
Brazilian Jazz Vocalist/ Pianist
ELIANE ELIAS
Bossa Nova Stories

Thurs, Fri, Sat, March 25-26, 27
"The Renowned Urban Jazz" makes Yoshi's Debut
NAJEE

Sat, March 27 (10:30pm)
[illegible] presents
AUDIO ALCHEMY
featuring KID KOALA

Sun, March 28
HAPA
[illegible] –Peter Fonda

Mon, March 29
JAZZSCHOOL YOUNG MUSICIANS PROGRAM

New Family Matinee Time! [illegible]

Wed, March 17
OWC NIGHT JAZZ BAND
with special guest vocalist Clairdee

Thurs, March 18
TITO Y SU SON

Fri, Sat, Sun March 19-20-21
ZIGABOOGALOO A Celebration of Legendary Funk Drummer Zigaboo Modeliste with an All-Star New Orleans Funk Revue
ZIGABOO MODELISTE, DR. JOHN, [illegible], NICHOLAS PAYTON, DONALD HARRISON, [illegible] and more!

Mon, March 22
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Tues, Wed, March 23-24
JOE LOVANO & US FIVE
with Esperanza Spalding (bass) James Weidman (piano) Otis Brown III (drums) Francisco Mela (drums)

Thurs, March 25
[illegible]
GEORGE KAHUMOKU KEOKI KAHUMOKU, DENNIS KAMAKAHI and DAVID KAMAKAHI

Fri, Sat, Sun, March 26, 27, 28
Rare Club Appearance
NATALIE COLE

Mon, March 29
ANTONIO SANCHEZ'S MIGRATION
with David Binney, Donny McCaslin, Scott Colley

Tues, March 30
DOMINICK FARINACCI BAND

Wed, March 31
JUAN ESCOVEDO & FRIENDS
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[illegible]

CONCERTS & CLUBS

ON SALE THIS WEEK

[illegible]: [illegible]

Charlotte Gainsbourg: tickets go on sale Thursday, March 18 at 10 am. Sat., April 17, 8 p.m. $57.50. Palace of Fine Arts.

Iron Maiden: tickets go on sale Saturday, March 20 at 10 am. Sun., June 20, 7:30 p.m. [illegible] Pavilion at [illegible]

Lady Gaga: [illegible] go on sale Friday March 19 at 10 am. Mon., Aug. 16, 8 p.m. [illegible] Pavilion.

[illegible] Presents [illegible]: [illegible] go on sale Friday March 19 at 10 am. Sat., July 3, 8 p.m. $20. The Independent.

[illegible]: [illegible] go on sale Friday, March 19 at 10 am. Mon., May 31, 8 p.m. $15. The Independent.

More Listings Online

Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

THURSDAY 18

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Singer-Songwriter Showcase w/ [illegible] performer Paul [illegible], [illegible] guests. Spotakommer, 8:30 pm, free

Classical & Opera

International Dynamic Guitar Summit featuring [illegible]. Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$19.50 door

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jazz Glow [illegible]. 6:30 pm, free

Thursday Night Live [illegible]. 8:30 pm, free

Zoyres Eastern European Wild Forward w/ [illegible]. Starry Plough, 8 pm, $7

Rock & Pop

The Spectacles [illegible] Sports Bar, 10 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Unplugged live R&B, soul, & jazz [illegible] after 11 p.m. Club [illegible], 8 pm, $10-$20

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $12-$15

[illegible] featuring Asian-American musicians, spoken-word artists, [illegible]. La Peña Cultural Center, 7:30 pm, $10

Tito Y Su Son de Cuba Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $10-$15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Willie [illegible]. 8 pm, $15

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The [illegible] Lee Konitz Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $15-$20

[illegible] Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$27

[illegible]

Cafe, 8 pm, $7

Eddie Palmieri and w/ guests. Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, free

[illegible] [illegible] Room, 8 pm, free

[illegible] San Francisco-based [illegible] performs live jazz [illegible], 7:30-11:30 pm, $17

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] & The Little Ones. Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $20

[illegible] [illegible] Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. 9 pm, $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. 9 pm, $8

The [illegible] [illegible] 10 pm, $10

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 9 pm, $5-$8

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 9 pm, $7

The [illegible] w/ [illegible], The [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $6

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] featuring [illegible], 9 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 9 pm, $20-$25

[illegible] 9:30 pm, free

[illegible] featuring [illegible], 9 pm, free

FRIDAY 19

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Cafe [illegible], 8 pm, free

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. Starry Plough, 9:30 pm, $8

The Glow [illegible] [illegible] Pavilion, 8 pm, $5

[illegible] Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$19.50

Classical & Opera

[illegible] Festival St. John's Presbyterian Church, 7:30 pm, $12-$17 [illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, free

Free Jazz Fridays [illegible], 8 pm, $5-$15

[illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, $15

The Last Band The New Zealander, 7 pm, free

Rock & Pop

The [illegible] [illegible], 9 pm, free

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 9 pm, $12

A [illegible] Journey [illegible] the '70s to Today [illegible], 8 pm, TBA

[illegible] featuring The [illegible], 8:30 pm, $10-$15

The [illegible] w/ [illegible], 9 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Presents [illegible] featuring [illegible]. The [illegible], 9 pm, free

[illegible] Soul [illegible] featuring [illegible]

tee, 8 pm, $6-$10

[illegible] Celebration of Legendary Funk Drummer Zigaboo Modeliste with an All-Star New Orleans Funk Revue featuring Zigaboo Modeliste, [illegible], Nicholas Payton, & more. Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $18-$28, $5 Dos for Sunday [illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] [illegible] Zellerbach Hall, 8 pm, $20-$26

A [illegible] of Latin American Traditional & Contemporary Music featuring [illegible]. La Peña Cultural Center, 8 pm, $12-$15

[illegible] [illegible] Jam House, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, $8-$10

Journey [illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, free

[illegible] [illegible], 8 & 10 pm, $20

[illegible] w/ John [illegible], [illegible], 8 pm, $10-$18

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$27

Eddie Palmieri [illegible] w/ [illegible]. Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, free

[illegible] [illegible] Room, 8 pm, free

[illegible] Symphony Hall, 8 pm, $30-$85

[illegible] Anniversary [illegible] w/ [illegible]. Cafe du Nord, 9:30 pm, $15-$20

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ The [illegible], 8 pm, $25

[illegible] w/ Captain [illegible], 9:30 pm, $8

[illegible] [illegible], 9 pm, free

[illegible] w/ [illegible] & The Little Ones. Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $20

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 10 pm, $5

[illegible] w/ [illegible] & All. The Independent, 9 pm, $12-$14

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 9 pm, $12

[illegible] w/ The New Poor Man's Wa & [illegible], 8 pm, $5-$8

The Plough [illegible] [illegible], 9 pm, $5

[illegible] w/ [illegible]. Bottom of the Hill, 10 pm, $12

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Brooklyn to the Bay and Beyond featuring [illegible], 9 pm, $8

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $20-$30

Yung Mars [illegible], 10 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] [illegible] Latin [illegible] w/ [illegible], 8:30 pm, $15.00

SATURDAY 20

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Larry [illegible] Presents [illegible], 8 pm, $20

[illegible] Phillips w/ [illegible]. Starry Plough, 8:30 pm, $10

[illegible] Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$19.50

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[illegible]

MON 10PM Free — THREE DAY WEEKEND
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PICKS

Babatunde Lea Quartet

Percussionist and drummer **Babatunde Lea** was a fixture on the Bay Area's jazz and world music scene for more than thirty years. His unique Ibaponga setup — a combination of hand drums and jazz drum kit — allows him to move from traditional African music to free jazz with an ease that belies his astounding rhythmic abilities. On Thursday, Mar. 18, at **Yoshi's** (1330 Fillmore St., San Francisco) his current quintet, which includes pianist Patrice Rushen and singer Dwight Trible, will be playing the music of Leon Thomas, the innovative jazz vocalist who was Lea's friend and mentor. The gig celebrates Lea's *Umbo Weti: A Tribute to Leon Thomas* recorded live Yoshi's in Oakland in 2008. 8 p.m., $25, [illegible] Yoshis.com — *J. poet*

Devendra Banhart

Ever the poster child for the freak folk movement, **Devendra Banhart** has nonetheless given a nod to conformity and at least acknowledged the mainstream. Cosmetically it was via the decision to crop his unruly mane and momentarily shave off his trademark shaggy beard. Creatively it was going the major-label route for last year's *What Will We Be*, his seventh studio record. Unlike the trippy and lengthy confessionals that dominated 2007's *Smokey Rolls Down Thunder Canyon*, this new collection of songs finds Banhart's indulgences more reigned in, with whiffs of Laurel Canyon soft rock and ska rising to the top. Lest you think he's ended up as the second coming of Jason Mraz, the native Texan still goes down plenty of musical wormholes lined with traces of twee folk and Chet Baker-esque saloon songs. This and more will undoubtedly be trotted out when the San Francisco Art Institute dropout is joined by the Grogs for this homecoming show at the **Warfield Theatre** (982 Market St., San Francisco) on Tuesday, Mar. 23. 8 p.m., $27.50-$30.50. TheWarfieldTheatre.com — *Dave Gil de Rubio*

Babatunde Lea.

Devendra Banhart.

Joel Krug

Gil Scott-Heron

Perhaps the most sampled poet in history, **Gil Scott-Heron** has managed to stay one step ahead of the times for four decades. His *Revolution Will Not Be Televised* is still the Everest of the spoken-word canon, but his new material is equally exciting — if only because it brings all kinds of new possibilities to hip-hop and R&B. Heron's current single, *Me and the Devil*, features him singing about morality in a raspy Delta-bluesman voice. Heron sings over a static drone punctuated by handclaps — which, in this case serve as a signifier for hip-hop. The video — with its black-and-white urban landscapes, transit lines, skateboarders, and Day of the Dead imagery — is really a form of performance art. Heron's new work mixes spoken-word philosophy with modern technology and a deep-seated sense of history. It's extremely current, but it also has the primeval crackle of an old blues record. No wonder Heron called his 2010 comeback album *I'm New Here*. Gil Scott-Heron performs at **Yoshi's** (1330 Fillmore St., San Francisco) on Wednesday, Mar. 17. 8 & 10 p.m., $26-$36. Yoshis.com — *Rachel Swan*

Joel Fan

It's a step-into-the-future weekend. At the same time that the Crowden School presents a John Adams Young Composers Program Faculty Concert of world premieres, pianist **Joel Fan** embarks on a global musical adventure that mixes the old (Chopin, Beethoven, Villa-Lobos, Margaret Bonds, and Prokofiev) with newer and lesser-known music by Ahmed Adnan Saygun, Dia Succari, and Qigang Chen. Laurels to Four Seasons Arts and the pianist of Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Ensemble to program music from Turkey, Russia, Syria, China, Germany, Poland, Brazil, and the United States in [illegible] concert. At **Regents Theatre at Holy Names University** (3500 Mountain Blvd., Oakland) on Saturday, Mar. 20. 7:30 p.m., $35-$40. 510-845-2344 or FSArts.org — *Jason Victor Serinus*

C&C

[illegible] East Bay, 8 pm, $20-$25
Steve Freund Cafe Van Kleef, 9 pm, free

Classical & Opera

Camerata [illegible] Trinity Chapel, 5 pm, $8-$12
[illegible] Presents Brahms' Requiem Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, 7:30 pm, $40, $35 senior, $15 kids
[illegible] Presents a Concert of French Music First Congregational Church, 5 pm, $20, $15 senior, $10 student
John Adams Young Composers Program Faculty Concert Crowden Center for Music in the Community, 7 pm, $15, kids free
[illegible] Festival St. John's Presbyterian Church, 3 & 7:30 pm, $12, $7 students & seniors
[illegible] Symphony Orchestra Zellerbach Hall, 8 pm, $25-$90
Sonidos de Venezuela y Latinoamérica featuring [illegible], La Peña Cultural Center, 5 pm, $14-$16

Experimental & Avant Garde

Music at Large Presents, The Rights of Spring [illegible] Theater, 8 pm, $10-$12

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Bob Crawford Trio Jupiter, 5 pm, free
The [illegible] of Jazz, Soul, & Comedy w/ California Flight, Johnny V's, 5 pm, $17-$25 [illegible]
[illegible] Bobby G's Pizzeria, 8:30 pm, free
Gage Trio Caffe Trieste, 7 pm, free
Steve [illegible] Jam [illegible] Albatross Pub, 9:30 pm, $3
Vocal [illegible] Part 5 w/ singers Sheira Brown & Crystal Monee Hall, plus Eric Vogler on bass & Howard Wiley on drums. Friendly Voice Music & Arts, 5 pm, $8-$15

Kids

[illegible] [illegible] Regional Center for the Arts, 1 pm, $26 kids, $38 adults
Music Fun La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 am, $5 adults, $4 kids

Rock & Pop

[illegible] Howard Awards Program featuring The Hormones, Analog Soul, [illegible], Hands of Dove, In the Absence, & Mystic Rage, Oakland Metro Operahouse, 7 pm, $7
S.F. Funk Funk Party featuring The Trophies, The [illegible], Edge City Rulers, & Cleveland, Stork Club, 7 pm, $6
Katie Kelpy [illegible] Telegraph, 5 pm, $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

DJ Salvatore Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 5 pm, free
[illegible] w/ Andrew & [illegible] Blood & The [illegible], The New Parish, 5 pm, $17-$22
ZigabooMac: A Celebration of Legendary Funk Drummer Zigaboo Modeliste with an All Star New Orleans Funk [illegible] featuring Zigaboo Modeliste, Mac [illegible], [illegible] & more, Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $18-$30, $5 kids for Sunday Soulday

SFJAZZ Spring Season 2010

"The music knows no boundaries."
— San Francisco Chronicle

LIVING LEGENDS & NEW DIRECTIONS

MAR 19 F 8PM

RETURN OF A PROPHET
KEITH JARRETT
Solo at Davies Symphony Hall

ECM artist Keith Jarrett is a certified jazz giant, having played with Miles Davis, Charles Lloyd and others. His solo concerts are unique within jazz history and this is a must-see cultural event.

MAR 20 SA 8PM

STATE OF THE ART
HIROMI, solo ROBERT GLASPER
Herbst Theatre

Keyboard virtuoso Hiromi gives a solo concert performance. Robert Glasper's Experiment [illegible] with hip hop grooves.

MAR 27 SA 8PM

A HANDFUL OF BEAUTY
RALPH TOWNER WITH PAOLO FRESU
YBCA Forum

A consummate ECM artist for [illegible], Ralph Towner sounds like no other guitarist. He is joined by sublime Italian trumpeter Paolo Fresu for some gorgeous duets.

MAR 28 SU 7PM

ECM SERIES — MOOD MASTER
TORD GUSTAVSEN ENSEMBLE
YBCA Forum

Norwegian pianist Tord Gustavsen draws comparisons to Jarrett and Hancock. Here he evolves beyond the trio setting, unveiling a new quartet with saxophone and vocals

APR 10 SA 8PM

U.S. PREMIERE
BOBBY McFERRIN'S VOCAbuLarieS
Nob Hill Masonic Center

This vocalist extraordinaire has conducted symphonies, scored a #1 hit and earned 10 Grammys. Now McFerrin unveils his new choral project VOCAbuLarieS

APR 16 F 8PM

SACRED SPACE
PHAROAH SANDERS, solo
Grace Cathedral

A living legend who embodies the spirituality of avant-garde jazz, saxophonist Pharoah Sanders can still send off an entire concert hall into the cosmic beyond.

APR 17 SA 8PM

BOSSA & BEYOND
CAETANO VELOSO
Nob Hill Masonic Center

Brazil's reigning artistic genius, Veloso whips up a global mix of pop, jazz and folk into a style all his own. At 67 he is often called the "Bob Dylan of Brazil" and his concerts are a legacy in progress

APR 18 SU 7PM

SAGEBRUSH SAVANTS
PUNCH BROTHERS FEAT. CHRIS THILE
Herbst Theatre

A veteran of Nickel Creek, 27 year old Chris Thile plays mandolin with rare artistic depth. And Punch Brothers is the most exciting band on today's new bluegrass scene

APR 23 F 8PM

SOUL MAN
BOOKER T.
Herbst Theatre

Booker T. & the MG's was the house band at Stax Records, backing artists like Otis Redding and Wilson Pickett. Now legend T. re-emerges with a 2010 Grammy for the new album *Potato Hole*

APR 24 SA 8PM

FADO PRINCESS
ANA MOURA
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

Ana Moura is among the greatest of stars to emerge from her native Portugal. Ana's concerts celebrate the rich, blues-like fado tradition, while carrying it ahead for the next generation

APR 25 SU 7PM

TAIL OF A CLOUD
CHARLES LLOYD NEW QUARTET
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

A towering figure, ECM saxophonist Charles Lloyd attained rock-star status in the '60s. He appears with a new quartet featuring the stellar Blue Note pianist Jason Moran

MAY 2 SU 7PM

EVOLUTION OF AN ARTIST
RAUL MIDÓN
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

Raul Midón's soaring vocals draw comparisons to stars like Stevie Wonder and José Feliciano. And Larry Klein, his producer, is known for a Midas touch (Joni Mitchell, Melody Gardot, Herbie Hancock)

MAY 22 SA 8PM

ORGANOMICS
SOULIVE WIL BLADES O.G.O.
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

Soulive's unstoppable mix of organ-driven soul-jazz, funk and hip-hop has won a worldwide fan base. Local B-3 star Wil Blades and trio open this steamin' hot show

MAY 28 F 8PM

VIOLIN VIRTUOSOS
REGINA CARTER MADS TOLLING
Herbst Theatre

The violin summit of 2010: Regina Carter has earned a MacArthur "Genius" grant, while Mads Tolling combines jazz with a stunning swirl of rock, classical and bluegrass

MAY 29 SA 8PM

BOP, BALLADS & BLUES
LOU DONALDSON
Herbst Theatre

Lou Donaldson's masterful alto sax tells the full story of mainstream jazz — blazing bebop, soul-jazz grooves and gorgeous ballads. At 83, he still plays with the same power of his famed Blue Note era.

MAY 30 SU 7PM

SINATRA BASIE REVISITED
KURT ELLING WITH COUNT BASIE ORCH
Davies Symphony Hall

The Basie Orchestra teamed up with Sinatra in the '60s resulting in three classic albums. Elling, today's greatest jazz vocalist, re-creates this stunning combo.

JUN 11 F 8PM

EXPLORING ELECTRIC MILES
MARCUS MILLER FEAT. CHRISTIAN SCOTT
Herbst Theatre

Electric bassist Marcus Miller's days with Miles Davis are historic. Trumpeter Christian Scott steps into Miles's shoes as they examine material from Tutu and more.

JUN 12 SA 8PM & 10:30PM

AFROPOP DANCE PARTY
SALIF KEITA
Bimbo's 365 Club

Salif Keita, "The Golden Voice of Africa," transformed his continent's musical landscape and ushered in the Afropop revolution. His soaring vocals and socially conscious lyrics have made him hugely influential. Two dance shows in one night!

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SOUNDS AND SILENCE
ECM RECORDS DOCUMENTARY
Thursday, Apr 1, 7PM
Roxie Cinema

TOMASZ STANKO QUINTET
>>> SOLD OUT <<<
Sunday, Apr [illegible] PM
Gould Theatre, Legion of Honor

SFJAZZ GALA 2010 FEAT. BOBBY HUTCHERSON
& CHARLIE MUSSELWHITE
Saturday, May 8
Four Seasons Hotel, San Francisco

SEXMOB WITH DJ OLIVE
PLAY SEXOTICA
Saturday, May 15, 8PM
YBCA Forum

SFJAZZ HIGH SCHOOL ALL STARS
Sunday, May 16, 2PM
YBCA Forum

SHEILA JORDAN WITH STEVE KUHN
Sunday, May 16, 7PM
YBCA Forum

FAYE CAROL QUARTET JAMIE DAVIS QUINTET
Sunday, May 23, [illegible]PM
SF Conservatory of Music Concert Hall

BÉLA FLECK, ZAKIR HUSSAIN & EDGAR MEYER
>>> SOLD OUT <<<
Tuesday, May 25, 7:30PM
Palace of Fine Arts Theatre

RENEE ROSNES & BILL CHARLAP TOSHIKO AKIYOSHI & LEW TABACKIN
Friday, Jun 4, 8PM
Herbst Theatre

DONNY McCASLIN TRIO
Saturday, June 5, 8PM
Swedish American Hall

JAMES FARM WITH JOSHUA REDMAN
(SFJAZZ MEMBERS ONLY)

[illegible]
Herbst Theatre

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[illegible] Ashkenaz, 3:15 pm, $10-$12
[illegible] Night w/ [illegible], Sweet Fingers, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Old-Time [illegible] w/ The Earl Brothers, The Last Men the Earth, & The Good Luck Thrift Store Outfit, Sam's, 8:30 pm, $15
[illegible] Caffe Trieste, 8:30 pm, free
[illegible] [illegible], pm, $20
[illegible] w/ Midway Bells, [illegible] 3 pm, free

Gospel & Vocal

San Francisco [illegible] Youth [illegible], 8 pm, $24-$38, $15-$25 Students

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Cody, 10 pm, $15
Eddie [illegible] w/ guests, Yoshi's San Francisco, 4:0 pm, free
[illegible] & [illegible] [illegible] 8 pm, tba

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The [illegible], 9 pm, $15-$17
[illegible] [illegible], 10 pm, $5-$8
[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8 pm, $12-$15
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 pm, $8
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 9 pm, $15
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Richard Bach, & [illegible], Club, 8 pm, $8
[illegible] w/ [illegible], 8:30 pm, $10
[illegible] w/ [illegible], 3 pm, tba
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] of the Hill, 10 pm, $12

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $26-$30
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] American Music Hall, 8 pm, $14

SUNDAY 21

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] & The Gentlemen Cafe Van Kleef, 9 pm, free
[illegible] Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $15.50-$18.50
The Starry [illegible] [illegible] to play Irish music w/ host Shay [illegible], Starry Plough, 8:15 pm, sliding fees

Classical & Opera

[illegible] [illegible], Nathan [illegible], Crowden Center for Music in the Community, 4 pm, $15, kids free
[illegible] Performing Arts [illegible] Concert [illegible] Church, 3 pm, $15
[illegible] w/ [illegible], Zellerbach Hall, 5 pm, $30-$72
[illegible] St. John's Presbyterian Church, 3 pm, $12, $7 [illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

The [illegible] [illegible] & contemporary jazz, [illegible], 3-6 pm, free
[illegible] Big Band [illegible] Lodge [illegible], 5-8 pm, $20 couples $35
[illegible] Band [illegible], 4:30 pm, $15-$18

Kids

[illegible] Youth [illegible] Band [illegible], 1 pm, $5

Rock & Pop

The Left [illegible] w/ [illegible] & The [illegible], & [illegible], 6:30 pm, $1-$8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] w/ [illegible] & rotating live [illegible], [illegible] & Lounge, 8 pm, free
[illegible] Celebration of Legendary

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[illegible] Gallery/Performance Space [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-444-7263
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[illegible] Lounge [illegible] St., Lower Patio, Oakland, 510-444-2377
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[illegible] 2450 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1125
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[illegible] [illegible], Pleasanton, 925-416-0777
[illegible] 5616 Bay St., Emeryville
[illegible] [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-1287
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[illegible] Center for the Arts [illegible] Lincoln St., Alameda, 510-523-8858
[illegible] [illegible], Walnut Creek, 925-979-0132
[illegible] [illegible] St., Hayward, 510-888-8525
[illegible] on Telegraph 2367 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-0880
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[illegible] [illegible] Pine St., Walnut Creek, 925-938-4550
[illegible] [illegible] Franklin St., Oakland, 510-268-9425
[illegible] [illegible] 3rd St., Oakland, 510-463-0085
[illegible] [illegible] St., Oakland, 510-835-3717
[illegible] 3343 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-625-4224
[illegible] 629 Ferry St., Martinez, 925-229-3340
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[illegible] [illegible] Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-932-1301
[illegible] 2308 Alameda Ave., Oakland, [illegible]
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[illegible] [illegible] Tennyson Rd., Hayward, 510-783-1900
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[illegible] 2612 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-845-5363
[illegible] Community Center of The East Bay 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, 510-848-[illegible]
[illegible] & Tea [illegible] 1223 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-2300
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[illegible] 1404 Webster St., Oakland, 510-251-0280
[illegible] 522 2nd St., Oakland, 510-444-0400
[illegible] [illegible], Pleasanton, [illegible] Sunol Ave., Berkeley
[illegible] Lounge 3337 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-5464
[illegible] [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-5868
Kitty's 6702 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-[illegible]
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[illegible] Lounge 3337 [illegible] Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4753
[illegible] Lounge 3106 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-873-2464
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[illegible] Lounge 2320 [illegible] Ave., Alameda, 510-523-4200
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[illegible] 2221 [illegible] Way, Oakland, 510-451-4677
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[illegible] Lounge 341 13th Street, Oakland, 510-839-6500
[illegible] Lounge 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2086
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Oakland [illegible] 530 3rd St., Oakland, 510-763-3544
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[illegible] 32 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925-284-7117
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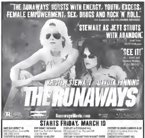
[illegible] 2700 Webster Ave., Alameda, 510-[illegible]
[illegible] 132 14th St., Oakland, 510-444-7224
[illegible] 43011 [illegible] Rd., Fremont, 510-979-0477
[illegible] 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1159
[illegible] 2850 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Ste. 130, San Ramon
[illegible] Amphitheatre One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View, 650-967-3000
[illegible] 1424 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-522-1500
[illegible] Lounge 2500 N. Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-817-1868
[illegible] 2900 [illegible] Way, Berkeley, 510-848-5027
St. John's Presbyterian [illegible] 2727 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-6830
Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082
[illegible] 2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-444-6174
[illegible] 484 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-563-0088
Uptown 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-8100
[illegible] Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St., Concord, 925-685-8585
[illegible] Vineyards [illegible] 5000 Arroyo Rd., Livermore, 925-456-2450
[illegible] Auditorium UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-4290
[illegible] 4550 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3820
Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200
Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley, 510-642-2968
Zza's Trattoria 552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-839-9124



"THE RUNAWAYS' BURSTS WITH ENERGY, YOUTH, EXCESS, FEMALE EMPOWERMENT, SEX, DRUGS AND ROCK 'N' ROLL."
[illegible], THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

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[illegible]

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[illegible]
CENTURY 16 HILLTOP
[illegible] Richmond
[illegible]
CENTURY 14 VALLEJO
[illegible] Vallejo
[illegible]

CENTURY 16 PLEASANT HILL
[illegible] Pleasant Hill
[illegible]
CENTURY 14 DOWNTOWN WALNUT CREEK
[illegible] Street, Walnut Creek
[illegible]
CENTURY BLACKHAWK PLAZA
[illegible] Plaza Circle, Danville [illegible]

CENTURY 25 UNION LANDING & XD
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[illegible]
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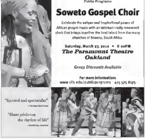

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C&C

Funk Awesome: Zigaboo Modeliste with an All Star New Orleans Funk Revue featuring Zigaboo Modeliste, Mac Breen, Nicholas Payton & more. Yoshi's, 2 & 7 pm, $18-$30. $5 less for Sunday matinee

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Human Synergy featuring songs from songs from South Africa, Latin America & more. La Peña Cultural Center, 7 pm, $17-$20
Chico Bamba Party Bamba Sweet's Ballroom, 7 pm, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Fat Tuesday Band Biscuits & Blues, 8 pm, $15
Jake Shimabukuro Yoshi's San Francisco, 7 & 9 pm, $15-$24
JJ Jenkins Band w/ Meteor, DDB, Hotel Utah, 9 pm, $6
Motel Drive w/ Clay, Dee Parlando, 4 pm, free
Songwriter Sundays rotating artists perform in the lounge, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm-midnight, $3

Gospel & Vocal

GospelWorks w/ Rubin Perfect & rotating guests, 1300 on Fillmore, 11 am & 1 pm, $20, includes brunch
San Francisco Bach Choir Calvary Presbyterian Church, 4 pm, $24-$35, $15-$20 students

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Kat E. Lav Rose Room, 8 pm, free

Kids

Juggle & Beats Swedish American Hall, 3 pm, $15, $60 for family 4-pack

Rock & Pop

Bonnie of Joy w/ The Bluebird, Rubik Windmill, 9 pm, $7
Bonnie Green Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $12
Bonnie w/ Rainbow Exile & Lightning Swords of Brake, Slim's, 8 pm, $24
Lounge: Songwriters Unplugged w/ Sunday Daily James Mason and Band featuring Shelley Doty, James White, & Chris Kakash, Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $7
Meridian Birds w/ Your Gunners, Here Come the Saviours, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 pm, $6
Rollercoaster w/ Watch & Sparkle, Rhino's, 8 pm, $5-$8
Rubber Bottom of the Hill, 8:30 pm, $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Dirrefly w/ Clarence Reed, Knights of the New Crusade, Awesome Party, & Fil Rob Metal, Elbo Room, 9:30 pm, $12-$15

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Georgia Lammoun Ensemble music and dance from the Middle East, Hella Pachamama, 8 pm, $10
Tu Jezmir Musical Oasis, 8 pm, $30

MONDAY 22

EAST BAY

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Berkeley High Jazz Ensemble Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $10-$15

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Jake Shimabukuro Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $15-$24

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Linda Bisset Rose Room, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Jennifer Mason Café du Nord, 8 pm, $12
Green Hou Eighteen Wheelbase, Eyes, The Washed, El Rio, 7 pm, $5

TUESDAY 23

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

The Hubby Tubby Hillbilly Jamboree w/ guest vocalist Ruby "Baby" Bennett, Julia's Coffee & Tea Garden, 7 pm, free
Joe Louis Walker and US Blue Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $18

Classical & Opera

Passamezzo Moderno Berkeley City Club, 8 pm, $17.50-$25

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Mason · Reid & Rhett Dean-Anthony Cuckoo's Nest, 7-8 pm, free
Jenny Farris Caffe Trieste, 7 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Dub Sandwich featuring Weekend Shit & Mountain & Haught, 21 Grand Gallery/Performance Space, 8 pm, free
Mustang Band Green featuring Autovold, Jeff Malt, Harnett's Cure, & Wadstrom, Stork Club, 8 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Davey Green Biscuits & Blues, 8 pm, $20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Fhedi Elias Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $18
Jane Mafia Tuesdays Cada, 8 pm, $7

Rock & Pop

Dan Tape w/ Al Rath, Elbo Room, 9 pm, free
Bonnie w/ Mustang Green Autovold, Kensi's, 9 pm, $5-$8
Masonb Budbert The Warfield, 8 pm, $21.50-$32.50
Pop Grown w/ Adobum, Eb, Kensis, & DJ Rob Macaf, Thee Parkside, 8 pm, $8
Jamie Callow The Fillmore, 8 pm, $26
Jason Mraz w/ Vanshee, Zoos, Cafe du Nord, 8:30 pm, $15
Lloyds Garage w/ The Hold Outs, Gravity Play, Hotel Utah, 8 pm, $8
Bonnie Hancock w/ The Depreciation Guild, Veil Veil Vanish, Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $12
Slugger & Pal w/ The Yellowbodies, Mile Poems, & Hounds & Bawney The Knock-out, 9:30 pm, free
Ted Leo and the Pharmacists w/ Sally Crewe and the Sudden Moves, Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $17
You Grows w/ All Grow High, Hollow Earth, Nebula Space, 9 pm, $8

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Javier Sol Rockit Room, 8 pm, $20
Lounge: Eclectic w/ Moultan Yoshi's San Francisco, 9 pm, $5

WEDNESDAY 24

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Bonnie Fullalove Ashkenaz, 8 pm, $7
Dr. K's Home Grown Roots Grown Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $14.50-$15.50

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SELECTOR: DIETSNAKS THUR 3/18
8 pm "Audio Catering by Experts" featuring DJ's Deil and Dubfinder (Stronghold Sound), where they'll be serving up a delicious international blend of funk, nu-jazz and electronic music.
www.myspace.com/dietsnaks

DRED SCOTT TRIO FRI 3/19
8 pm A mainstay of the 90s SF jazz scene, Dred Scott makes it back to the Jup patio for the first time in a long time! With his seventh album, jazz pianist Dred Scott and his trio deliver a hefty helping of the downtown cool that has earned them one of the most fervent followings on the New York jazz scene. Featuring upright bassist and producer Ben Rubin and drummer Tony Mason, Live at the Rockwood out now on Ropeadope, is a two-session masterpiece which documents the trio's open-ended engagement (three years and counting) at this popular Lower East Side venue.
www.dredscott.com
www.twitter.com/dredscotttrio
www.myspace.com/dred666

MACHINA SOL SAT 3/20
8 pm Machina Sol is a new project created by four veteran bay area musicians, with David Flores on drums, Tarik Regas on bass, Javier Navarrette on percussion, and Bob Crawford on Keyboards. The band combines jazz and funk with Afro Carribean rhythms to arrive at music that is truly a treat for the feet and the soul
www.myspace.com/machinasol

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C&C

Joe Lovano and US Five Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $24

Classical & Opera

Magnificat Presents Monteverdi's Vespro della Beata Vergine St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 4 pm

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Rat-A-Scalm Presents Cabaret of Laughter and Liberation La Peña Theater Center, 7 pm, free

Rock & Pop

The Backyard Farmers [illegible] Cafe, 5 pm, free
Weezer Fox Theater, 4 pm, $25

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Jay-Z: The BP3 Tour w/ Young Jeezy, HP Pavilion, 4 pm, $45.50-$129.50

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Gato Negro Shattuck Down Low, 8 pm, $10, $5 Thursdays

SAN FRANCISCO

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Eliane Elias Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $58

Rock & Pop

Acid Mothers Temple w/ OCOC, [illegible] the Hill, 9:30 pm, $12
The [illegible] Gallery Tour The Independent, 9 pm, $15-$17
High Places w/ Bit Arm, Protect Me, Rickshaw Stop, 8 pm, $10-$12
Re: Animals w/ [illegible] The Singularity, Thee Parkside, 4 pm, $5
Pentagram w/ [illegible], Slough Feg, [illegible] & [illegible] Metal, DNA Lounge, 8:30 pm, $18-$22
The Vessel Revenge w/ [illegible], 4 pm, $5-$8

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

VENUE DIRECTORY

SAN FRANCISCO

322 Club 415-441-0222.
330 Ritch 330 Ritch St., 415-541-9574.
Amnesia 853 Valencia St. 415-970-0012
Amoeba Music 1855 Haight St., 415-831-1200
Annie's Social Club 917 Folsom St., 415-974-1585
[illegible] 1616 Bush St., 415-771-1030
[illegible] & Lounge 1 Tillman Pl., 415-392-4150
Bocce Restaurant and Wine Salon 440 Broadway St. 415-364-4110
Bazaar Cafe 5927 California St. 415-831-5620
Beauty Bar 2299 Mission St. 415-285-0323
Bimbo's 365 Club 1025 Columbus Ave 415-474-0365.
Biscuits & Blues 401 Mason St., 415-292-2583
Bottom of the Hill 1233 17th St., 415-621-4455
Bruno's 2389 Mission St., 415-643-5200.
Cafe du Nord 2170 Market St. 415-861-5016.
Cafe International 508 Haight St., 415-552-7390
Caffe Trieste 601 Vallejo St. 415-982-2605.
The Club 1190 Folsom St., 415-436-3333.
[illegible] 812 Market St., 415-621-8177
The Cellar 685 Sutter St. 415-441-5678
[illegible] 285 Bush St. 415-283-0830.
Club Fugazi 678 Green St. 415-421-4222
Club Six 60 Sixth St. 415-863-1221.
Coda 1710 Mission St. 415-551-2632
Davies Symphony Hall 201 Van Ness Ave 415-864-6000
Dirty Martini 2001 Leavenworth St., 415-775-5110
DNA Lounge 375 11th St., 415-626-1409
Dogpatch Saloon 2496 3rd St. 415-643-8592
The Eagle Tavern 398 12th St., 415-626-0880
Edinburgh Castle 950 Geary St., 415-885-4074
El Rincon 2700 16th St. 415-437-9240.
El Rio 3158 Mission St., 415-282-3325.
[illegible] 647 [illegible] St., 415-552-1786
[illegible] Lounge 8078 Geary St., 415-581-1202
The EndUp 401 6th St., 415-863-6008
The Fillmore 1805 Geary Blvd., 415-346-6000.
[illegible] 520 4th St. 415-263-1880.
The Regency Ballroom 1300 Van Ness Ave 415-673-5716
Great American Music Hall 859 O'Farrell St. 415-885-0750
Hemlock Tavern 1131 Polk St., 415-923-0923
Herbst Theatre 401 Van Ness Ave 415-392-4400
Hotel Utah 500 4th St. 415-546-6300.
The Independent 628 Divisadero St., 415-771-1421.
Ireland's 32 Bar & Grill 3920 Geary Blvd. 415-386-6173
Jazz at Pearl's 256 Columbus Ave., 415-291-8255
Johnny Foley's Irish House 243 O'Farrell St. 415-954-0777
The Knockout 3223 Mission St., 415-550-6994.
[illegible] 1747 [illegible] St., 415-864-5585.
Madrone Lounge 500 Divisadero St. 415-241-0202
Make-Out Room 3225 22nd St. 415-647-2888.
Mezzanine 444 Jessie St., 415-625-8880
[illegible] 66 West Portal Ave
Noe Valley Ministry 1021 Sanchez St. 415-454-5238
Park Chalet Garden Restaurant 1000 Great Highway, 415-386-8439
[illegible] 3430 [illegible] St., 415-646-0018
Pier 23 The Embarcadero, 415-362-5125
Red Devil Lounge 1695 Polk St., 415-921-1695
[illegible] Lounge [illegible] 30th St., 415-826-7290
Rickshaw Stop 155 Fell St. 415-861-2011
[illegible] 416 Clement St. 415-386-6344
San Francisco Conservatory of Music 50 Oak St., 415-503-6275
Skip's Tavern 453 Cortland Ave., 415-282-3456
[illegible] 3080 16th St., 415-621-0284
Slim's 333 11th St., 415-522-0333.
Space 550 550 Barneveld Ave., 415-550-8286
Stud Bar 399 9th St. 415-863-6623
[illegible] 2071 [illegible] St. 415-255-1227
Supperclub 657 Harrison St. 415-348-0900
Swig Bar 561 Geary St., 415-931-7292.
Temple 540 Howard St.
Thee Parkside 1600 17th St., 415-503-0393
Top of the Mark 1 Nob Hill 999 California St. 415-616-6916.
Tunnel Top 601 Bush St., 415-986-8900.
Velvet Lounge 443 Broadway St. 415-788-0228
The Warfield 982 Market St., 415-775-7722
Yoshi's San Francisco 1330 Fillmore St., 415-655-5600

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Mar 11: Old-School Oakland Blues
Ms. Dee & the VIPs
[illegible] dance lesson [illegible] pm show [illegible]
[illegible] George Cole Quintet
Kickin' the Mule [illegible]
[illegible]
and more to come

THU 3/18 8:30 pm $15 $12 adv — ECSTATIC SUFI TRANCE GROOVES — **BARARA MOOS** [illegible]

FRI 3/19 8:30 pm $12-$15 $10 adv/stu — STOMP THE STUMPS — **THE QUILT, FUNKY NIXONS, GARY GATES BAND** — Benefit for Bay Area Coalition for Headwaters and Earth First!

SAT 3/20 9:30 pm $15 $10 adv/stu — CUBAN — **LOS BOLEROS** — Havana Dance Party! 8:30 pm Cuban Salsa dance lesson

SUN 3/21 1:00 pm $5 — SOGGY SUNDAYS KIDS' SHOW — **BANDWORMS** — **YOUTH ROCK BAND SHOWCASE**

TUE 3/23 7:30 pm $5 — BAND RECITALS — **BANDWORKS** — Rock, blues, pop, and more

WED 3/24 8:00 pm $7 — FOLKDANCE — **BALKAN FOLKDANCE** — 7:00 pm dance lessons

THU 3/25 8:30 pm $12 — BALKAN/KLEZMER/AMERICANA — **JANAM** — **GO VAN GOGH**

FRI 3/26 9:30 pm $12 $10 adv/stu — BRAZILIAN — A NIGHT OF FORRÓ — **FORRÓ BRAZUCA** — **DJ CARIOCA** — 8:30 pm Forró dance lesson

3/27 [illegible] ST SHOWCASE [illegible] DANNY I, [illegible] BLAAK LUNG, I RAE DIVINE, & MORE
3/28 MAHEA UCHIYAMA 3/30 ANDRE THIERRY
4/2 CARIBBEAN ALLSTARS 4/3 ANTIOQUIA, MORE

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FRI 3/19 [illegible] — BOURGOIS GYPSIES — GREASE GRIT AND GRIME — MARS ARIZONA
SAT 3/20 9PM $10 — MELISSA PHILLIPS — MEGAN SLANKARD — CYNDI HARVELL — GEOFF BAKER
[illegible] — JAMES WINTON AND FRIENDS — UROMASTYX — SWINDLEFISH
FRI 3/26 9PM $10 — FAUN FABLES — MOETAR — AND SPECIAL GUESTS
SAT 3/27 9PM $10 — KHI DARAG — THE FUXEDOS — RUBE WADDELL — FREDDI PRINCE

SUNDAYS 8:00 PM IRISH MUSIC SESSION W/ SHAY BLACK
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SAT 3/20 **JUNIOR REID** ANDREW + WADA BLOOD & THE RED BLOOD BAND — DOORS 4 PM / $17 ADV / $20 DOOR / 18+

WED 3/24 **SEAN HAYES** PRESENTED BY [illegible] — WITH SPECIAL GUEST KACEY JOHANSING — DOORS 8 PM / $15 ADV / $17 DOOR / 18+

FRI 3/26 **CANDELARIA** WITH: DJ ROGER MAS [illegible] — DOORS 4 PM / $10 ADV / $12 DOOR / 18+

SAT 4/3 PETE & MARTY MAGIK PRESENT **THE HOT 8 BRASS BAND** — DOORS 8 PM / $7 / 21+

TUE 4/13 [illegible] PRESENTS: **NEBULA** — DOORS 8 PM / $10 ADV / $12 DOOR / 18+

WED 4/14 **RA RA RIOT** — WITH SPECIAL GUEST — DOORS 8:30 PM / $18 ADV / ALL AGES

3/21 GUTTA 4/22 DEVIL MAKES 3
3/27 THEPEOPLE 4/24 GROWING
4/4 NOBUNNY 4/30 THE COUP
4/17 THE PACK 5/28 FUGAI
4/18 DJ CHRIS BAIO (Vampire Weekend) 6/2 WHY?

TICKETS AT: THENEWPARISH.EVENTBRITE.COM

RASPUTIN MUSIC & DVDS

LIVE MUSIC SUNDAYS

3/21/10 2pm
ASH REITER
Stunning, slightly jazzy indie-pop with a melancholy undercurrent.
myspace.com/drunkenboat

3/28/10
2pm SILIAN RAIL
Instrumental duo whose songs are labyrinths of open-tuned guitars and intense drumming
myspace.com/silianrailmusic
3pm THE BLANK TAPES
Garagey, heavily melodic songs about plants, Santa Cruz hideaways and other things
myspace.com/theblanktapes

4/4/10 2pm
BRIANNA LEA PRUETT
Swampy Folk Blues songs from Northern Californian Native
myspace.com/briannaleapruettmusic

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DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 18

EAST BAY

Audio Catering by Esparto featuring DJs Dus, Dusdrone spinning funk, reggae and electronic, [illegible]. 9 pm, free
Float Dubplate w/ DJs spinning house, Latin, & hip-hop. Raven and Bar, 9 pm, free
Thursdays rotating DJs spinning reggae & world music. Air Bar & Lounge, 10 pm, and
DJ Jetty Gold spinning soul, funk, hip-hop, R&B, & more. Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free
DJ Trick spinning lounge. Lost Weekend Lounge, & pm-2 am, and
Dusty Duggan featuring [illegible] spinning their favorite [illegible], 9 pm, and
[illegible] DJ [illegible] Pickett Pistol spins jazz & R&B, Kingman's Ivy Room, 9 pm, free
Flirt Thursdays [illegible] night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning mash-ups, electro, hip-hop, & top 40. Blakes on Telegraph, 10 pm, $5
Over the Edge w/ DJ [illegible] spinning power pop, punk, & glam. Ruby Room, 10 pm-2 am, free
Primo J's Jamaica [illegible] Club, & pm, free
Riff Raff indie pop, mash-ups, new wave. Radio, 10 pm-2 am, free
Tasty ladies night w/ DJs [illegible] spinning hip-hop & R&B. Club 21, & pm, $10-$15
Thunderdome Thursdays w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning hip-hop and more. [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] & guests spinning Afro-tropical-funk. Elbo Room, 10 pm, $6
[illegible] [illegible] featuring Cheap Therapy DJ [illegible]. Rickshaw Stop, & pm, $10
College Night DJs [illegible] spin hip-hop, hyphy, R&B, & more. The Cellar, 10 pm, free
DJs [illegible] & Gold spinning funky [illegible] & underground hip-hop. Swig Bar, 9 pm, free
[illegible] The Fillmore, & pm, $30
Play Anything DJs spinning Pop, Gold and Hip Hop all night. Milk, free

Solid Thursdays featuring DJ Daddy Rolo [illegible] Club Six, 9 pm, $5
[illegible] [illegible] w/ DJs the Booker [illegible], & [illegible], plus special [illegible], DJ [illegible], 9 pm, $10

FRIDAY 19

EAST BAY

Meet @ the Friday DJ [illegible] spins music from the 80s, [illegible], 9 pm, and
Caribbean Night DJs [illegible] and [illegible] spin reggae, soca, salsa, and R&B. [illegible] Paradise Club, 9 pm, $10
featuring w/ DJ Ryan DJ Ryan spins the hottest music in the Bay Area, [illegible] [illegible] bar, 9 pm, $5
Flashback Fridays DJs [illegible] & guests spin [illegible], and funk. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 pm, $10
Friday Night Reggae Party w/ DJ [illegible], [illegible] Sound, & guests spinning reggae, R&B, & calypso. Sweet Fingers, 9 pm, free
Happy Hooker w/ DJ [illegible] spinning punk, rock, indie, & roots rock. Missouri Lounge, 8-10 pm, free
"La Rosa" [illegible], & [illegible] spin dancehall, soul, R&B, [illegible] and club [illegible]. Karibbean City, 10 pm, $5
Mandala weekly in-house DJ series, [illegible] Music, 7-10 pm, free
Old-School [illegible] and funk. Radio, 9 pm, and
Quixotic DJ Joe Quixx spins funk, Latin, & [illegible]. Easy Lounge, 10 pm, and
Retro-[illegible] [illegible] hosts '80s pop night. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free
Society w/ DJ Jarvis Prayer [illegible] northern soul, [illegible], '60s, [illegible], new wave, & rock 'n' roll. Ruby Room, 10 pm, free
Valentine's [illegible] [illegible] Point 1, [illegible] and Bar, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Club Up indie-pop-dance-new wave nightclub. Rickshaw Stop, 10 pm, $10 for 21+, $15 for 18-21
Gold DJs Miracle, [illegible] Hands, & Shane King spin electro, baile, [illegible] music, [illegible], hyphy, hip-hop, & party classics. [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm-10 after 12 a.m.
DJ Tom Thump and [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible], 10 pm, $5
Open To Earth featuring The Polish

DJ Joe Quixx spins at the Easy Lounge on 3/23

Ambassador [illegible] & Sleepy [illegible] Club [illegible], Rickshaw Stop, & pm, $10
Flashback Friday DJs Scotty Fox, [illegible], [illegible] MCD & Chicken Scratch spin '80s and hip-hop. The Cellar, 10 pm, free before 10 pm, $10 after
Ghettodisco rotating DJs, The [illegible], 11 pm, $10, free before midnight
[illegible] [illegible], 9 pm, $5
Mandala weekly in-house DJ series, Amoeba Music, 6-8 pm, free
Off To Miami featuring DJ Mark Farina, SuperClub, 10 pm, $10
[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] Tomas, Chomsky [illegible], & [illegible] spinning [illegible], electro, minimal, and [illegible]. [illegible], 9:30 pm, free before 10 pm, $5
[illegible] [illegible] party [illegible] by Flavor [illegible], w/ [illegible]. [illegible], 10 pm, $8
VSL Fridays w/ rotating DJs from the Bay Area and around the world featuring hip-hop, soul. Velvet, 9 pm, $10
The Blend of Green & Gold featuring DJs [illegible], [illegible], & more. 333 Hamlet St, 10 pm, $20-$30

SATURDAY 20

EAST BAY

Flashback Night DJs [illegible] and [illegible] spin reggae, [illegible], R&B and R&B. [illegible] Paradise Club, 9 pm, $10
Club [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] & guests spinning hip-hop & R&B. [illegible] and Bar, 9 pm, $8-$12
Downtown Saturdays w/ [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall & hip-hop. The Avenue, 9 pm, free
[illegible] w/ [illegible] and [illegible] spinning hip-hop, indie pop, punk, [illegible], & [illegible], [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, free

Freaky-Deaky DJ [illegible] and [illegible] spin hip-hop, soul, R&B, mashups, and rock. College Lane, 9 pm, and
[illegible] [illegible], & pm, $7
La [illegible] Loca Latin [illegible] night w/ DJs spinning salsa, [illegible], & [illegible], plus hot go-go [illegible]. Club 21, 9 pm, $6-$15
Mim [illegible] & Crew w/ DJs [illegible] and Farmer's Market cocktails at 2:00 am, Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free
Pop Money [illegible] DJs spin pop hits with the [illegible], [illegible]. Ruby Room, 10 pm-2 am, and
Reggae Night Conga Lounge, 10 pm, free
Smooth Saturdays DJ [illegible] & guests spin soul, hip-hop, R&B, salsa, reggaeton, & more. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Club Downtown w/ DJ Shag [illegible] the hottest Bay Area [illegible] hits, [illegible], 10 pm, and before 11 pm with [illegible]
DJ Supertime! w/ DJs DJ Kool Kyle & [illegible] [illegible] spinning cumbia, reggaeton, [illegible], and world. [illegible] Elbo Room, 10 pm, $5
[illegible] DJs Zita & [illegible] spin [illegible], soul, funk, & reggae. [illegible], 9 pm, free
Non Stop Bhangra Rickshaw Stop, 9 pm, $15-$20
[illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], & [illegible] [illegible]. 10 pm, [illegible]
Sabe Lounge DJs spinning [illegible], hip-hop, urban Top 40, & [illegible]. [illegible], 10 pm, $20

SUNDAY 21

EAST BAY

Back to Basics Roots, funk and more. Easy Lounge, 9 pm, free
DJ [illegible] w/ guests spinning old-school R&B & more. Kitty's, 7 pm, free
King of [illegible] DJ Smoke-One and guests spin reggae, dancehall, more, & [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] Down Low, 8 pm, $10, ladies/students and before 11 pm
Gold Sunday [illegible] Community [illegible] [illegible] Southern [illegible] [illegible], Ashkenaz, 11 am-2 pm, $5-$15, [illegible] [illegible], children 12 & [illegible]
This Must Be The Place featuring DJ Soul [illegible], 2022 Lounge, 3 pm, $5
[illegible] Sundays DJs spin [illegible] & roots reggae. The [illegible] Club, 7 pm, and

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] w/ [illegible] and Nacio plus guests [illegible], [illegible], disco and soul. [illegible], 10 pm.

[illegible] DJ [illegible] & [illegible] spin reggae & dancehall, [illegible] 10:30 pm, $5
Gold [illegible] DJ [illegible] & [illegible] spin [illegible], soul, & funk. [illegible], 9 pm, free

MONDAY 22

EAST BAY

The 3-Day Weekend w/ DJs C-[illegible] & [illegible] spinning hip-hop and soul classics. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free
Irie Mondays DJs Buddy & [illegible] spin reggae & dancehall. Kitty's, 9 pm, free
Mystery Night guest DJs spin hip-hop, new wave & [illegible]. Ruby Room, 10 pm-2 am, free
[illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] spinning rock and roll, [illegible], oldies, & soul. Missouri Lounge, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

[illegible] Gold w/ DJs spinning New [illegible], R&B & '60s soul. [illegible], 9:30 pm, free
DJ [illegible] featuring [illegible], soul, [illegible] & [illegible]. [illegible] Lounge, Swig [illegible], 9 pm, free
[illegible] DJ [illegible] & [illegible] spin hits and [illegible] from the '20s to today, [illegible] Underground SF, 10 pm, and
Salsa [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible], plus [illegible], Cafe Cocomo, 7:30 pm, $5, [illegible], $10
[illegible] Vinyl w/ DJ Jerry [illegible] spinning an eclectic mix of vinyl. [illegible] & [illegible], 9 pm-2 am, $3
Spliff Sessions w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible], & C-Moore spinning funk, soul, hip-hop. [illegible] Lounge, jazz, Latin, and [illegible], [illegible] Bar, 10 pm, free

TUESDAY 23

EAST BAY

DJ Bootsy Blood Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free
DJ Joe Quixx spinning salsa & Latin funk. Easy Lounge, 9 pm, free
DJ [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning hip-hop and club classics. Kitty's, 9:30 pm, and
[illegible] [illegible] night featuring DJ [illegible] & [illegible]. Club 21, & pm, [illegible]
Soul Flash DJs Serg, Kool Kyle, & guests spin reggae, [illegible], & classics. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 pm, free
[illegible] w/ DJs spinning rock, soft hits, oldies, & soul. Ruby Room, 10 pm, free

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[illegible], the Beat w/ DJs Centipede & [illegible] spinning [illegible] and funk rock, plus [illegible] guests. [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, free
[illegible] [illegible], open mic, party Club Six, 9 pm, $5
DJ [illegible] w/ DJs Sebastian Twat, [illegible] Hill [illegible], Aqua Lounge, & pm, free
DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning [illegible], underground hip-hop, & [illegible] grooves. Swig Bar, 9 pm, free
[illegible] hip-hop & soul w/ DJ [illegible] plus live guests. 330 Ritch, 10 pm, $5
[illegible] w/ DJs Chicken Scratch, [illegible] Fox, [illegible] & guests spinning late '80s and early '90s hip-hop. The Cellar, 10 pm, free

WEDNESDAY 24

EAST BAY

Afternoon Delight w/ DJ [illegible] spinning Brazilian, funk, & more. Kitty's, 7 pm, free
[illegible], Pop Heart w/ DJs Roam, Ant, Aaron Axson [illegible] and [illegible] spinning house and [illegible]. Blakes on Telegraph, 9 pm, $8
[illegible] w/ DJs Jel & [illegible] of Anticon. [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm-2 am, free
The [illegible] Hip-Hop w/ DJs spinning [illegible], Club 21, & pm, $6-$10
[illegible] Wednesdays DJ Santero & rotating guests spin [illegible], [illegible], reggaeton, & more, plus [illegible] [illegible]. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, and

SAN FRANCISCO

1002 Nights DJ Cheb i Sabbah [illegible] North African & Middle Eastern grooves, Underground SF, 9 pm, $5
Brand New Wednesdays w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning [illegible], top 40, reggae, R&B & more. Milk, 10 pm, free
DJ [illegible] spinning [illegible], [illegible], new school soul, underground [illegible], & [illegible] Afro-fusion. Swig Bar, 9 pm, free
Lounge DJs spin [illegible], R&B, reggae, & club classics. The Cellar, 10 pm, free
[illegible] Wednesday DJs [illegible], [illegible], & [illegible] spin [illegible], [illegible], reggae, funk, & soul. [illegible], 10 pm, $5
[illegible] [illegible]
Toby's Oldies DJ Toby Cain spins [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible], Toby's [illegible], 9-11:30 pm, free

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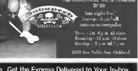

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SAVAGE LOVE

RUNNING HOT

A husband's shoe fetish, a low sex drive, and flashing men on the web

By Dan Savage

My husband and I have been married for one year, but we had been dating for ten years. I thought we had a very understanding relationship. In the last couple of days, I have found out that he has a serious obsession with females wearing running shoes. He had in the past hinted at the fact that it turns him on, but I had no idea the scope of this obsession. I've discovered that he spends a large number of hours a week devoted to this fetish. He was sloppy in covering his tracks one day, and I found evidence on his computer.

I should also mention that when he told me he thought running shoes are hot, I thought he meant on me, not on all living and breathing females.

I believed that he could trust me enough to be open with me, but he has been hiding this from me for eleven years! I am still in shock and not quite sure how to deal with it. He obviously feels ashamed, otherwise he would have told me years ago. Why did he not bring this up before we got married? I had a right to know what I was getting into. I don't know if I can live with knowing that he gets a hard-on for every running shoe-wearing woman who goes by. I feel betrayed and creeped out. He says that he didn't want to hurt me, but he has done just that. I feel physically sick to my stomach knowing that I didn't really know who he was all this time. We still have to work it out and really talk about our new situation. But I am beginning to think our marriage isn't going to survive this. Am I being too sensitive? How can I fix my marriage?

Dumbfounded In Brooklyn

Does your husband like your tits only, DIB, or can he get a hard-on for every tits-wearing woman who goes by? Does he like your pussy only, DIB, or can he get a hard-on for every pussy-having woman who goes by?

If your marriage can survive the husband being attracted to tits and pussy generally, DIB, but attracted to your tits and pussy particularly, your marriage should be able to survive the awareness that your husband is into women in running shoes generally but into you in running shoes particularly.

Why did he keep it from you? Because he was ashamed, DIB, because guys with fetishes are told — hey there, Prude — that they're disturbed and unlovable, and because no one bothers to inform straight women that fetishes are to male sexuality what lies are to a Fox News broadcast: likelier to be present than not. So he dropped hints but didn't tell you during year one — or year two or three, year four, etc. — because he was afraid you would have the reaction you're having at year eleven.

So what do you do now? You forgive him, if you give a shit about your marriage, if you actually ever loved him, and you do a little reading about male sexuality. Daniel Bergner's *The Other Side of Desire* is a good place to start.

And ladies? If your boyfriend or husband has "hinted at the fact that [something or other] turns him on," you can safely assume that [something or other] really turns him on.

A good friend of mine is engaged to a woman with an extremely low sex drive. He'd like to have sex every day; she barely responds to his touch. I advised him to work up the nerve to suggest an "understanding" or to disengage. If he's this frustrated as a 27-year-old fiance, how is he going to feel after five years in a monogamous marriage?

Concerned Buddy

Either your buddy won't be married in five years or he won't be monogamously married. Either way, CB, you spoke up, and that's all a friend is required to do under the circumstances. Now you have to stand back and let your buddy make the biggest mistake of his life.

I assume you've heard of Chatroulette by now. I discovered it about four weeks ago, and I am strangely turned on by all the dudes on there jerking off. I have started to show my tits to some of those dudes because it is such a massive turn-on for me (who knew I had this exhibitionist streak in me?). My husband doesn't know about any of this. However, all sexual arousal is redirected his way in the form of really hot, passionate fucking!

I feel bad about not telling my husband. Do you think this is cheating? If you say it is, Dan, I will stop.

Clever Arranger

I don't want to call what you're doing — flashing random Chatroulette pervs — cheating, as cheating is such an ugly word, but odds are good that your husband would call it that.

Even so, CA, I'm reluctant to tell you to stop. Spend a few weeks reading my e-mails, and you will come to regard anything — anything at all — that lights a fire under the marital bed as a universal good. So talk to your husband. Tell him that — like everyone else on earth — you "discovered" Chatroulette about four weeks ago. Then tell him you were surprised by (1) just how many dudes are jerking off in front of their computers at any given moment and (2) just how turned on you were by their exhibitionism. Confess that you've been a bit obsessed with the site, add that it's why you've been so horny lately, and then invite him to join you for a session. If he seems into the idea or gets into it once you're online, sheepishly confess that you've been flashing a little skin yourself.

Then fuck the husband's brains out.

CONFIDENTIAL TO SAVAGE LOVERS: Constance McMillen is a senior at Itawamba Agricultural High School in Fulton, Mississippi. When she asked the school if she could attend prom with her girlfriend, she was told no. When Constance pressed her case, the Itawamba County School Board canceled prom. Constance is now being harassed and bullied.

E-mail, call, and fax Itawamba Schools superintendent Teresa McNeece (tmcneece@itawamba.k12.ms.us, phone 662-862-2159 ext 14, fax 662-862-4713) and Itawamba Agricultural principal Trae Wiygul (twiygul@itawamba.k12.ms.us, 662-862-3104). Constance needs to know that there are people all over the world who are on her side. ●

Find the Savage Lovecast (my weekly podcast) every Tuesday at thestranger.com/savage.
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Notice of Petition to Administer Estate of LISA FORRESTAL CONNOR CASE NUMBER RP10501307

1. To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of (specify all names by which the decedent was known) LISA FORRESTAL CONNOR. 2. A Petition for Probate has been filed by (name of petitioner) Geoffrey M. Connor in the Superior Court of California, County of (specify) Alameda. 3. The petition for Probate requests that (name): Geoffrey M. Connor be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. 5. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. 6. A hearing on the petition will be held in this court as follows: Date 4/5/10 Time 9:30, Dept: 201 7. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. 8. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the decedent, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. 9. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. 10. Attorney for petitioner (name): Robert P. Foster Esq. SBN 105538, Address: 5900 Powell Street, Suite 200 Emeryville CA 94608 Telephone 510-420-0400

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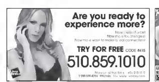
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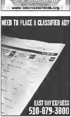
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